SHERLOCK BONES

4

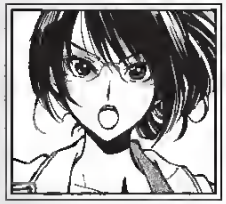
STORY BY
YUMA ANDO
ART BY
YUKI SATO

Sherlock Bones 4

Miki & Sherdog & Takeru

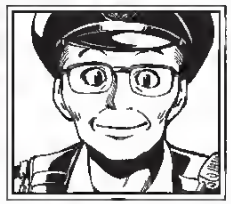
Story: Yuma Ando Art: Yuki Sato

Members of the Wajima Family



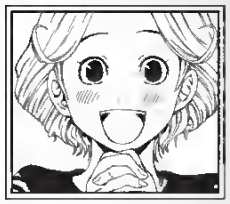
Airin Wajima

Takeru's sister, an inspector in the Violent Crimes Division. Sherdog calls her Irene.



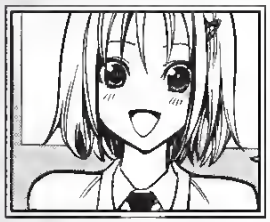
Kōsuke Wajima

Takeru's father. A sergeant in the police force.



Satoko Wajima

Takeru's mother. She really hates it when Sherdog sits in her favorite rocking chair.



Akane Nanami

A second-year at London Academy High School, and friend of Takeru and Miki. President of the volunteer club.

THE STORY SO FAR

The puppy Sherdog—reincarnation of Sherlock Holmes—and the ordinary high school student Takeru Wajima team up to solve tough cases!! It's ASB election time at London Academy, and presidential candidate Akane is in danger of losing the election when her mud-slinging opponent distributes an obscene photo of her.

STORY

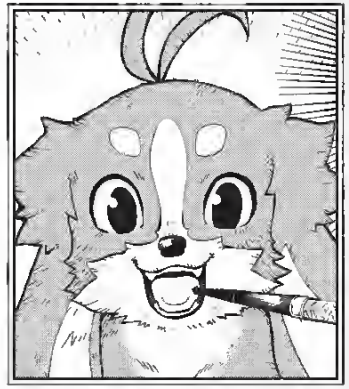
CHARACTERS

Takeru Wajima

A second-year at London Academy High School, he is an ordinary student who loves dogs. He is Sherdog's owner and the one person who can understand him. He and Sherdog must team up to solve all kinds of difficult cases. He has a crush on his childhood friend Miki.

Sherdog
(Sherlock Holmes)

The mixed-breed puppy that Takeru adopted. His true identity is that of the world-famous detective, Sherlock Holmes. When he has the Wajima family's heirloom pipe in his mouth, he can speak to Takeru. He solves crimes with Takeru, learning about the modern world in the process.



Miki Arisaka

A second-year at London Academy High School. Takeru's friend since childhood, and a member of the school newspaper staff.

Volume.4

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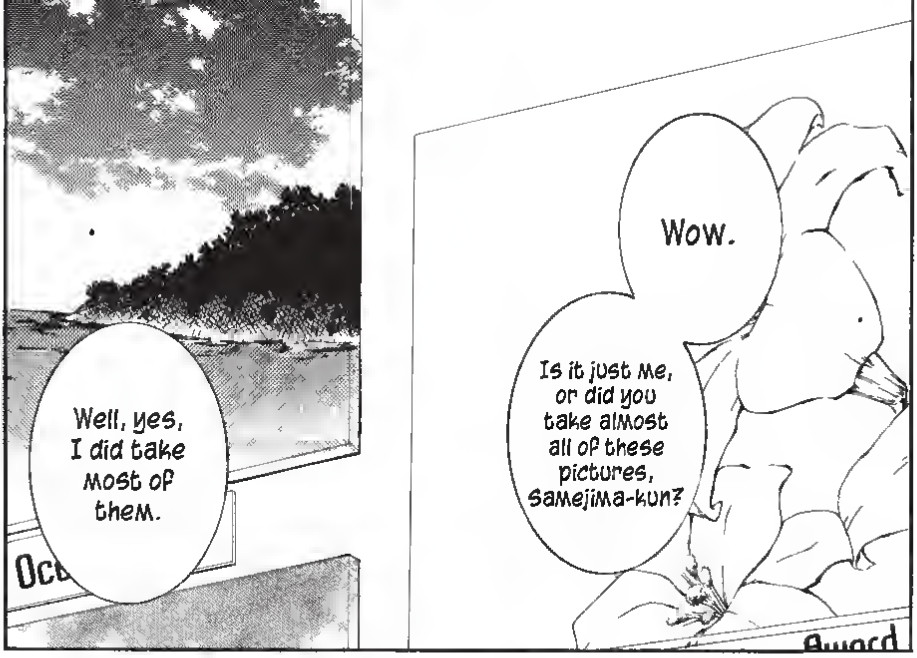
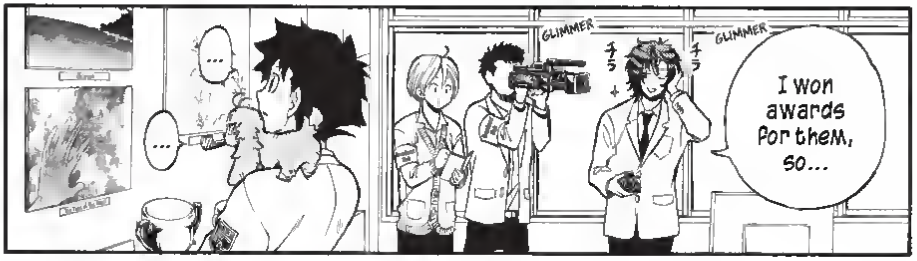
Hey, is this for real?
Nanami's True Colors!!
geous to think that she could be
dent body president. Who knows what
t temptations she may use to care favor?
The picture on this flier!!
I only just heard the news. What's going on?
...!
GLANCE
The more I look at it...
The more it looks like Nanami-kun, at her old school.
TMP
Akane...

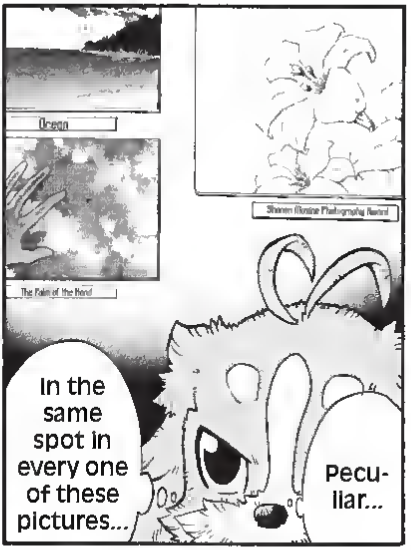
SHERLOCK BONES

Dammit, Samejima. You won't get away with this.
Keep a cool head, Watson.
Can you believe what's happening?
Good Morning, Samejima-kun.
TEP TEP TEP
Oh... Arisaka.
Remember the plan— approach him with a smile.
Okay.
Miki, come with me!
Right!
If it's okay with you, we'll ask the broadcast club to film it.
So do you think we could get another interview, Samejima-kun?
But of course.
GH GH...
Oh, you're here, too.
It's a shame she'll have to drop out of the race.
ZOOM
I know, it's crazy, right?
GH
Thanks.
I'll see you at lunch in the photography club room.
SMIRK

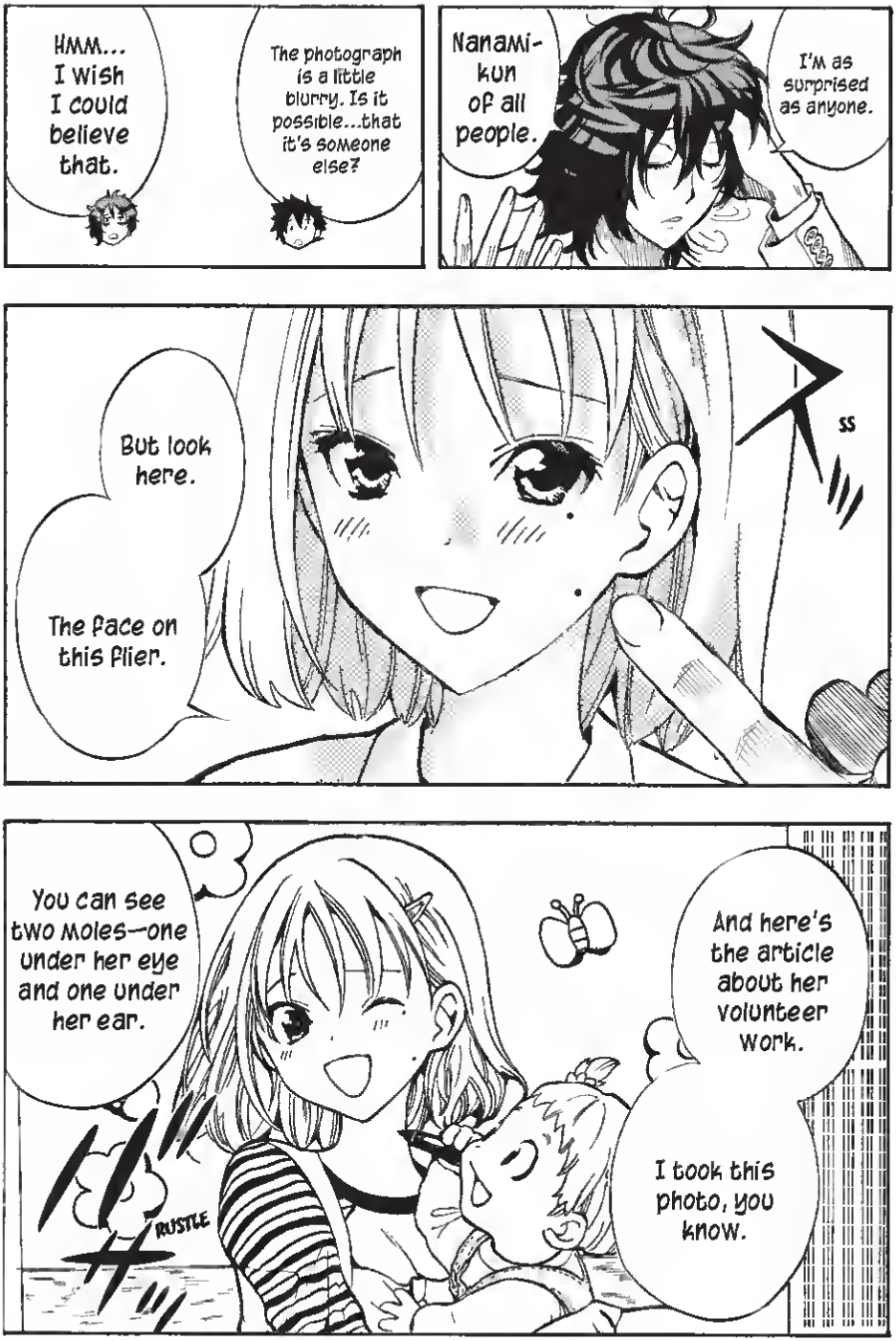

Wow.
Is it just me, or did you take almost all of these pictures, Samejima-kun?
Well, yes, I did take most of them.

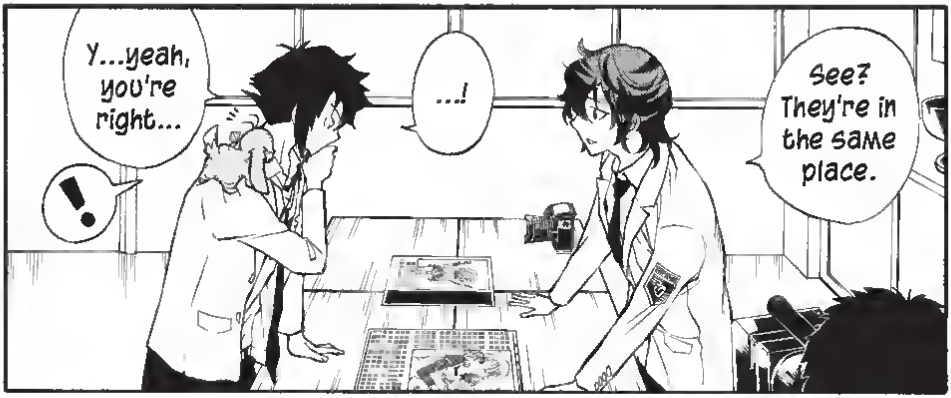

GLIMMER
GLIMMER
I won awards for them, so...

Right, first...
Oh!
Now, what would you like to know first?


Ocean
The Palm of the Hand
In the same spot in every one of these pictures...
Pecu-liar...

...
I'd like to ask you about the scandal involving your opponent, Akane Nanami-san!
RUSTLE


Hmm... I wish I could believe that.
The photograph is a little blurry. Is it possible...that it's someone else?
Nanami-kun of all people.
I'm as surprised as anyone.
But look here.
The face on this flier.
SS
You can see two moles—one under her eye and one under her ear.
And here's the article about her volunteer work.
I took this photo, you know.
RUSTLE


Y...yeah, you're right...
!
...!
See? They're in the same place.

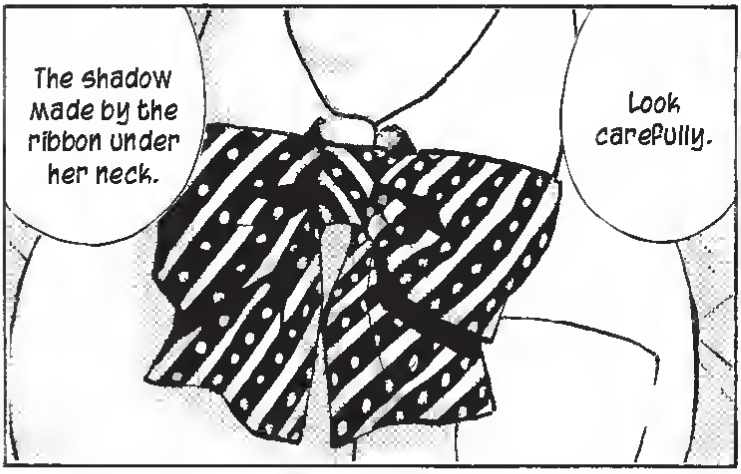
I believe that's where we'll find our answer!!
Just the other day, I happened to read an article in the paper.

ARF!
This photograph was taken with one of those "digital cameras," correct?
Don't look so worried, Watson.

I hate to say it, but it can't possibly be anyone else.
It would be difficult to explain how two girls would have Moles in exactly the same places.
What?
I don't know about that.

But it's too soon to present it as evidence.
First...
NOD
...
ㅋㅋ!!

I think somebody
Found a picture on the internet, and stuck Nanami-san's face on it.
You know, like one of those doctored idol collages.

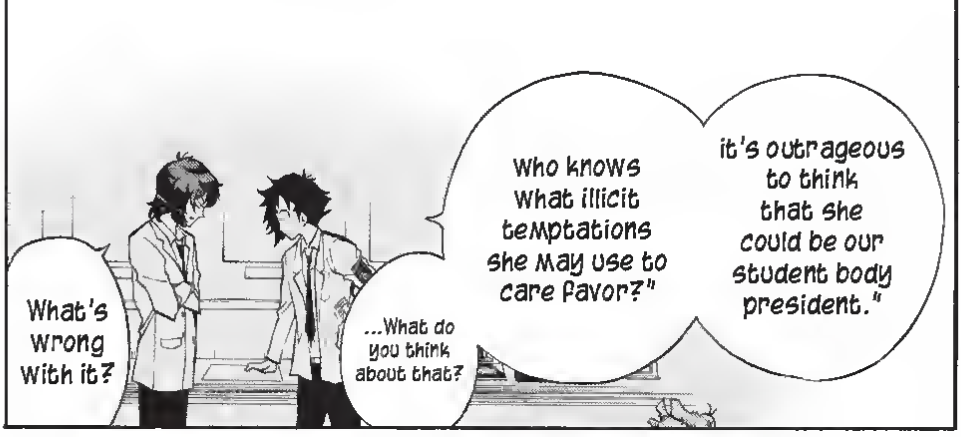

Look carefully.
The shadow made by the ribbon under her neck.

TWITCH
LOL
Oh really... how can you tell?
The lighting.

And the shadow cast by her hair.
They're on opposite sides.

It's possible that light was shining on her from two different places, like this...
I mean, you know.
W... well, you know...
Changing directions at the neck?
Is... is it, really...?
Hey, you're right.
That's impossible unless the photo's been doctored.
HOW COULD I MISS THAT!
Wha...what are you accusing me of?
I wonder if this flier is some kind of dirty mud-slinging ploy by one of her opponents.
Right. You and Nanami-san.
Incidentally...
RUSTLE
It's just...I'm the only candidate with a chance.
Oh... yes, that's true...
GASP
What? Oh, I never said that you did it, Samejima-kun.
There are other candidates, right?

ワン!!
ARF!
Really? I had no idea.
A&B President Pre-Election Poll
According to our paper's poll,
it looks like Nanami-san had quite a lead over you.
What?
There's one other thing.
The shadows aren't the only strange thing about this picture.
NOD
...
BAM
It's outrageous to think that she could be our student body president. Who knows what illicit temptations she may use to care favor?
There's something off
about this text.


What's wrong with it?
...What do you think about that?
Who knows what illicit temptations she may use to care favor?"
it's outrageous to think that she could be our student body president."

"curry favor"!
Curry
Care
favor
That's the real phrase.
Oh come on, it doesn't sound weird to you?
SERI SERI
"Care favor" should be

Autocorrect is known to have done worse.
Just a careless mistake by whoever typed that up.
Right! Typos like that happen all the time.
That's... just...!
GASP

!
Wha... what?!
So I'm sure it's happened to you.

You said in a previous interview that you want to create a student council that the students care about.
When I become student body president — as I've written on my campaign posters and fliers, I want to create a student council that the students care about
See? You made these fliers and posters for the election.
I want to create a student council that the students care about.
RUSTLE

Nope. That time, it's what you meant to type.
B-but that's not a typo!!

But what if...
SS
スッ
this campaign flier...
was made on the same computer...
STEP
スタ
STEP
スタ
as this scandalous flier?
Cur
TAPPA TAPPA
Then it would be easy to make this exact typo.
MURMUR
ざわっ
That...
TAK
Care
This would be the first word
that comes up in your autocor-rect!

You "journalists" on the school paper should learn how to do your job right!!
!
Th-that's really far-fetched! You're blowing this out of proportion!
SKFF
SKFF

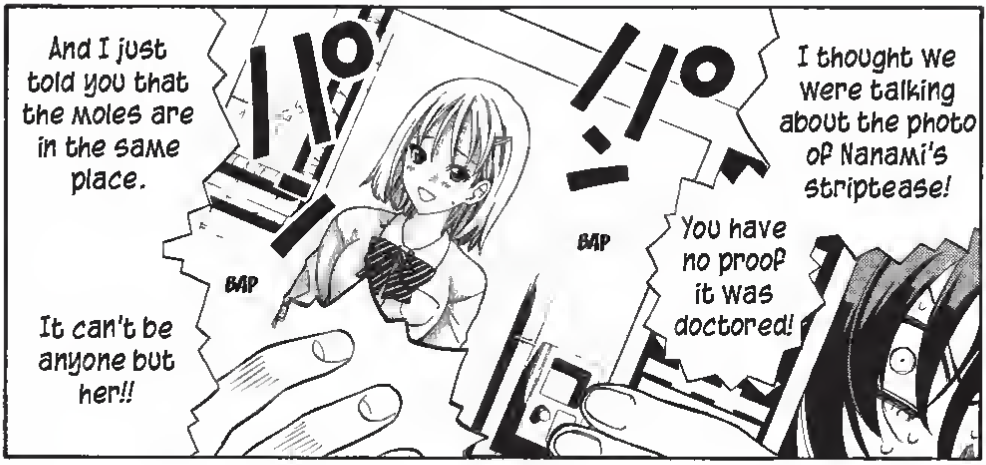
You turned my name into Coki!
It looks right to me.
(Second-Year) Koki Samejima-san

What? Where?
You mistyped the name of a presidential candidate!!
Look!
BAM!

B-but I saw it...this morning...
You couldn't have!!

We actually did print a few papers with a typo yesterday.
But we scrapped most of them—only a few of them got mixed in with the rest.
What...?

So how could you have known about that typo?
!
PSST
PSST
ひそひそ...
By then, every single copy of the school paper had been taken from the stands.
You just barely made it to school on time today.
School Paper
School Paper
ひそひそひそ..
PSST
PSST
PSST...
Grr...!
And it happened to be one of the ones with the typo.
...While you were there, you figured you'd take a copy of the paper.
Because you were putting this piece of libel in the stand?
Was it because you were there last night after we left the papers?
DAH
?!
W-wait a second!
TH-THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD... OKAY, FINE!

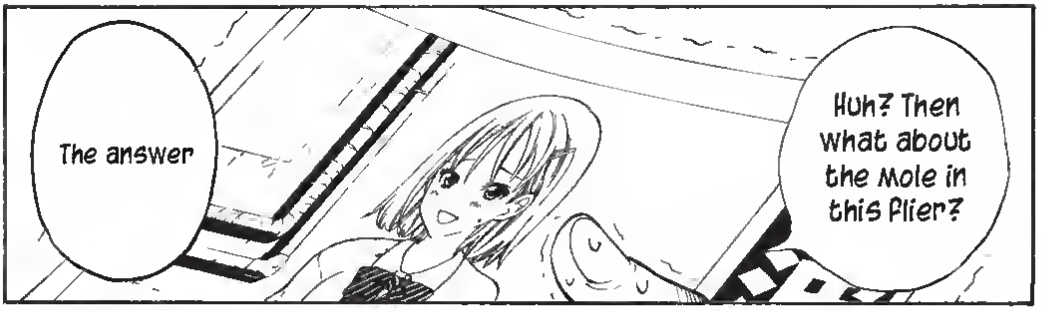

And I just told you that the moles are in the same place.
BAP
BAP
I thought we were talking about the photo of Nanami's striptease!
You have no proof it was doctored!
It can't be anyone but her!!

NOD

Get him, Watson!!
ARF
We've got him cornered— he's trying to change the subject!

What...?
Hey, Nanami!
You can come in now.

RATTLE
カラ…
Take a good look, Samejima.
...
She has a mole under her eye...
but there's no mole on the edge of her cheek.
Z!
SS
B... but...
I was sure it was there in the volunteering photo.
That "mole"
came from a magic marker! The boy I was holding put it there!


The answer
Huh? Then what about the Mole in this flier?

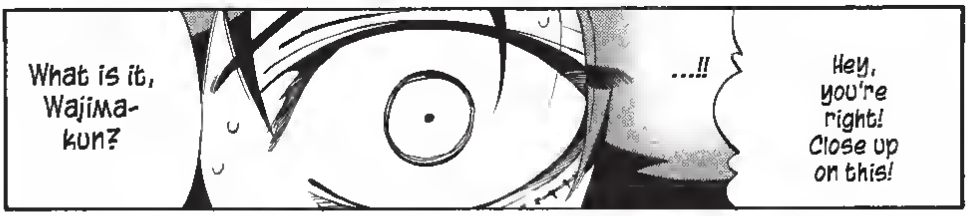
is in these photos
that you so proudly put on display.
?!

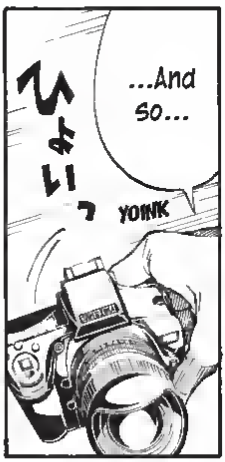
There's one on these White Flowers, too.
aphy Award

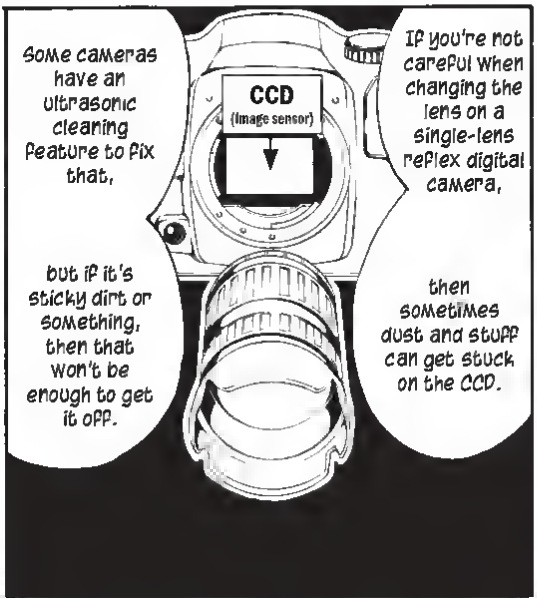
And here in the desert.
Distant Silk Road

See? Here in the sky.

A little mole.
In exactly the same spot as Nanami's jawbone here.


What is it, Wajima-kun?
...!!
Hey, you're right! Close up on this!


...And so...
YOINK

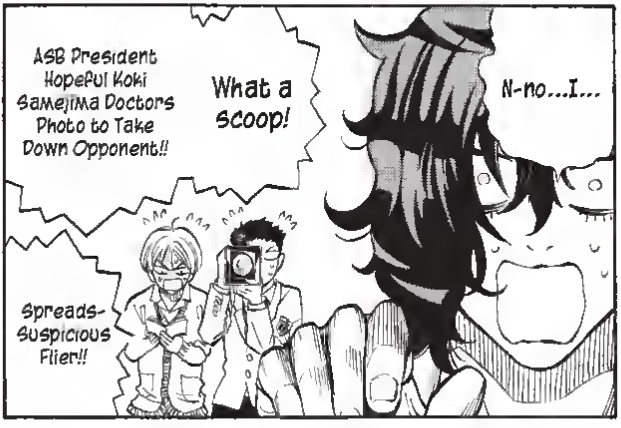

Some cameras have an ultrasonic cleaning feature to fix that,
but if it's sticky dirt or something, then that won't be enough to get it off.
CCD
(Image sensor)
If you're not careful when changing the lens on a single-lens reflex digital camera,
then sometimes dust and stuff can get stuck on the CCD.

Dust.
Huh?

!!
カシャ
SNAP
Exactly. Your camera. Whenever it takes a picture...
D-don't touch my camera, you...!
SAMEJIMA

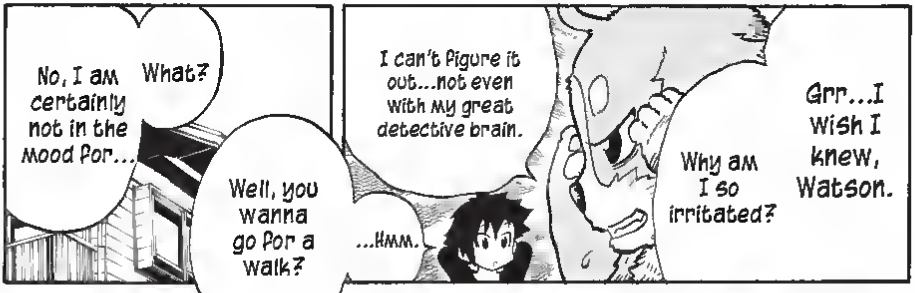
As you can see,
now you have the same mole on your face!

Hey...Stop that! Stop recording!!
Huh?
Recording?


ASB President HopeFul Koki Samejima Doctors Photo to Take Down Opponent!!
What a scoop!
N-no...I...
Spreads-Suspicious Flier!!

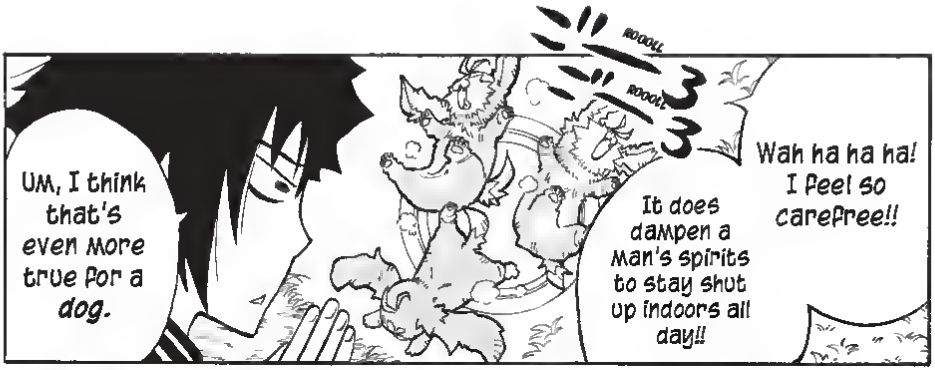
Oh, no.
This is a *live* broadcast.
Every classroom in the school is watching!!
Wha—?
YEAH!
イエイ!
It...it's a conspiracy!!
N-no! It's not what you think!
FLAIL
FLAIL

Defending to the Death

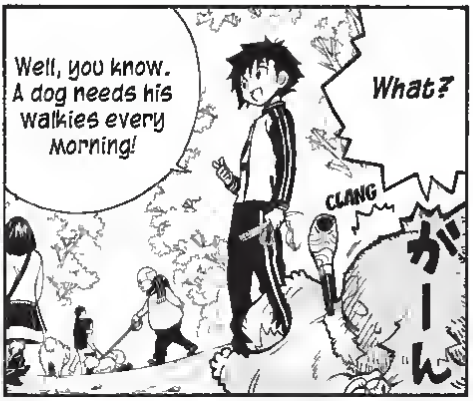

What?
No, I am certainly not in the mood for...
Well, you wanna go for a walk?
I can't figure it out...not even with my great detective brain.
...Hmm.
Why am I so irritated?
Grr...I wish I knew, Watson.

SHERLOCK BONES

Special 2: Unseen Crime in the Park


ROOOL
ROOOL
Um, I think that's even more true for a dog.
It does dampen a man's spirits to stay shut up indoors all day!!
Wah ha ha ha! I feel so carefree!!

MMM...
...
GASP
Like that one.
Just doing his business whenever he feels like it.
PHBTBT


Well, you know. A dog needs his walkies every morning!
What?
CLANG
ガーン

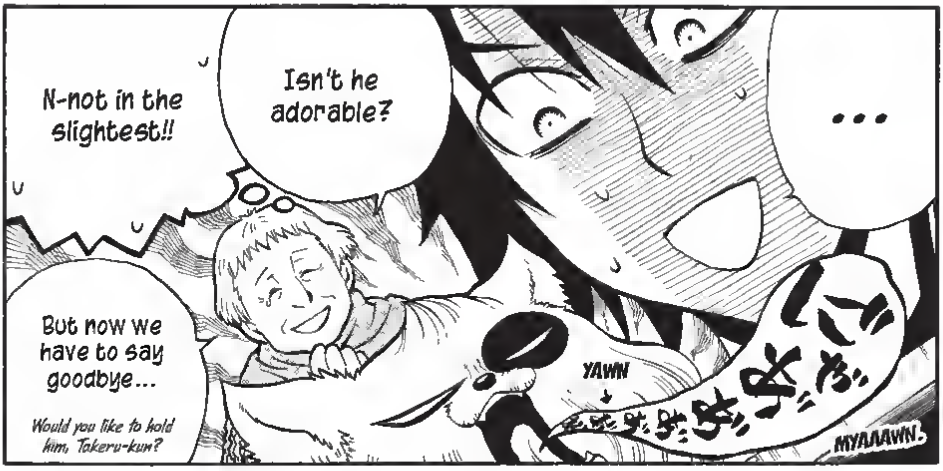
Is that you, Takeru-kun?
FIDGET
...
FIDGET
FIDGET
うずっ
うずっ
Huh?

Now, now, no need to hold it in... I won't watch.
I...I refuse. I... could never do something so ungentlemanly. Never...
FIDGET
うずっ
カチカチ
CLACK CLACK
Oh!

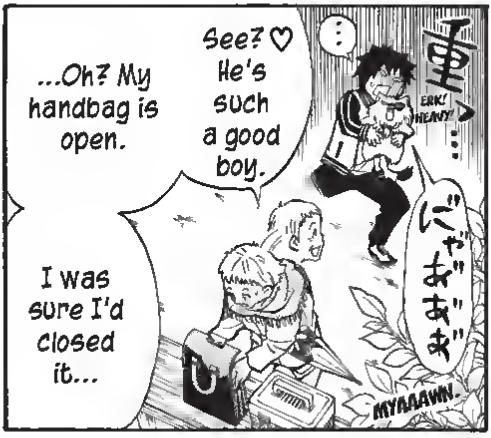
It's good to see you again!
DASH
BOW
How long has it been? Three years?
KAPOP
It is you!
My, my, look how you've grown!
Miki's grandmother!!
I think so.
RUMBLE
...
...Huh?
Oh, right! This is my dog...

But he's just a little doggie. I don't think he'd mind if you don't introduce us—he wouldn't know the difference.
Oh is that so?
See, I have this new dog...he's so funny.
STREEETCH
Hey! Sherdog!
...
RUSTLE RUSTLE
That's weird. Where did he go?
...!!
CLUNK
Oh...now that you mention it... yeah.
He is just a dog. Ha ha ha.
POP
ZRR
ZRR
So I'm on my way to see Miki today...
Yes, My daughter lives there, and I was planning to stay with her.
KAPOP
Wow, you're going to London?

ゴ
ゴ
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
ゴ
ゴ
RUMBLE
...and leave this little guy at his new home.


N-not in the slightest!!
Isn't he adorable?
...
But now we have to say goodbye...
Would you like to hold him, Takeru-kun?
YAWN
MYAAAWN.

!
Eeeek! My wallet's gone!!


...Oh? My handbag is open.
See? ♡ He's such a good boy.
I was sure I'd closed it...
ERK! HEAVY!
MYAAAWN.

Why is he carrying a woman's wallet?
That man is strangely agitated...
TEP
TEP
Nn?
Ah, that's better...
REFRESHED

!
MURMUR
Her wallet's been stolen!
It was only a minute ago! The thief might still be in the park!!
MURMUR
Someone help! I've been robbed!
MURMUR

He's still standing there!!
SNEAK SNEAK
There he is!

GLANCE GLANCE
It must have been that man!

!
Watson! Over here!
APE
APE
APE
CHOMP
YEOWCH!

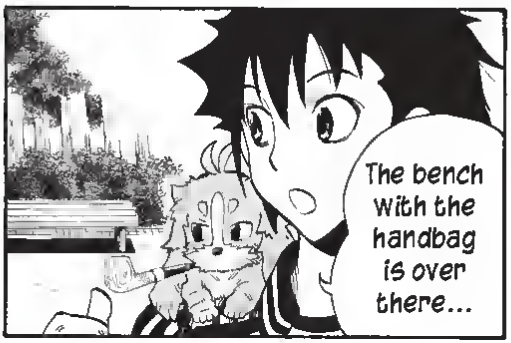
Sir! Did you take a red wallet from the bag that was sitting on the bench!?!
I-I don't know what you're talking about!!
FLUSTER
FLUSTER
...
Good work, Sherdog!
I thought dogs were color blind!
I saw this man carrying a rather feminine red wallet a moment ago!
TMP
ARF
ARF
ARF
MURMUR
MURMUR
Wh-what's this dog's problem?!!
GASP
MEOW
That cat!
...

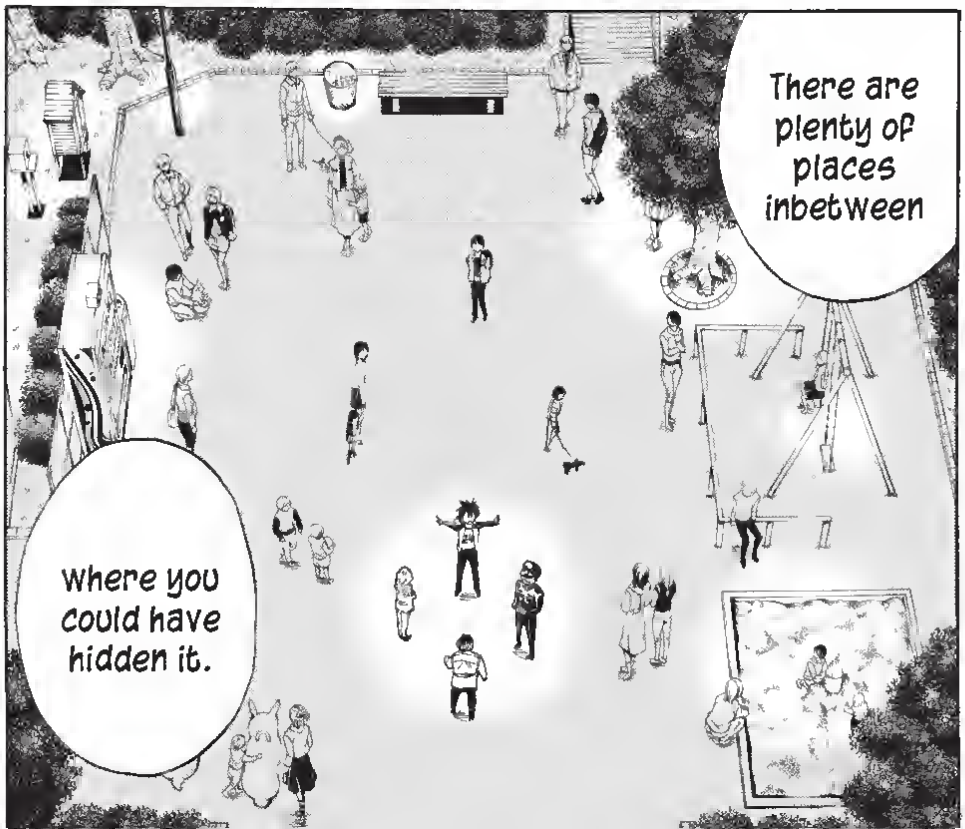
Takeru! What's going on?
Oh! Dad!
TWEET
...And we think this is the guy that did it.
...
Miki's grandma's wallet got stolen.
AW, CRUD! MY DOG WAS THE ONLY WITNESS!!
Uh...
Because...
You think he did it? Why?
Then you won't mind if we search you.
Please do.
It wasn't me, Officer. I don't have it.

Hmm...it's not here.
...!
I checked his clothes and his bag, and there's nothing resembling a woman's wallet...
See, I told you!!
You can't just go around accusing random strangers of crimes!!
CRINGE
CRINGE
たじたじ
Huh? Um, I just...
YOU GOT IT WRONG, SHERDOG!
Don't look away from me!
...
Calm down, Watson. I know what I saw.
He is the thief!!
And he most likely...
!
Of course!
Okay...

...What?
You hid it somewhere when you heard the scream, didn't you?
Hey! What are you muttering about...

and we caught up with you over here.
...


The bench with the handbag is over there...

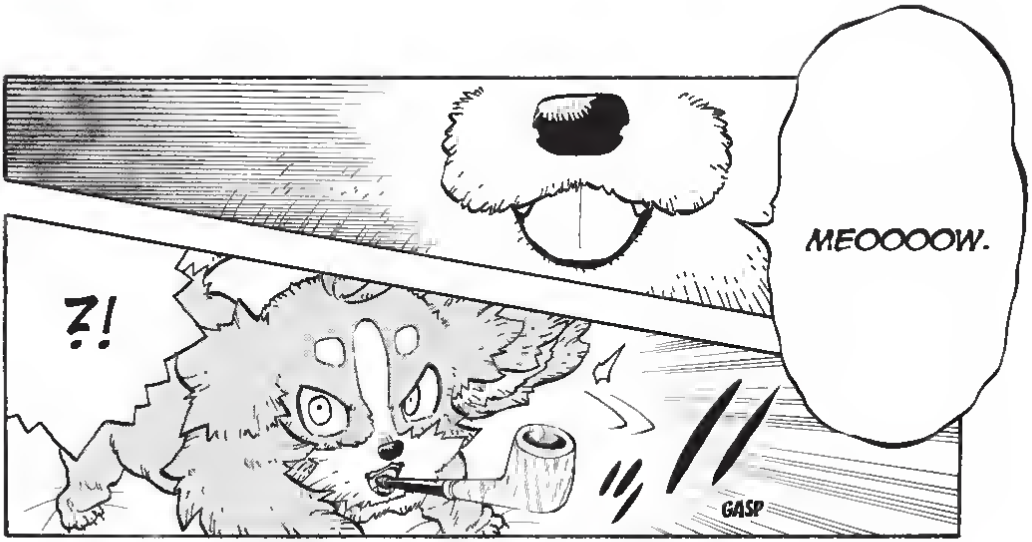

There are plenty of places inbetween
where you could have hidden it.

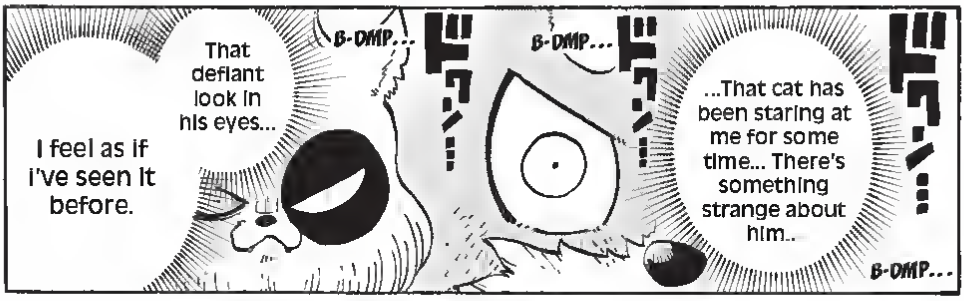
He'd need a key to open the instrument shelter.
He didn't hide it in any of those, Dad.
You could hide something in that instrument shelter.
Or in that bird house...
And there's no way he could stick his hand in a bird house without attracting attention.
...I see.
...
People would wonder about a grown man digging around in the trash can or playing in the sandbox.
No, it would be too hard to get it back later.
ARF!
?!
...Then he could have buried it in a garbage can, or the sandbox...
O...oh, right.
Only one place it would look totally normal for him to get the hidden wallet back from.
And that's...
BAM
Hmmmm... then where in the world...
There's only one logical place.

The vending machine!!
There.

After you search him and prove his innocence,
he casually goes to buy himself a drink, and while he's at it...
TMP
GULP
!
NOD
NOD
NOD
Huh?!

He reaches over to get the wallet he left inconspicuously in the corner.
That was how he planned to get the wallet back without anyone noticing.
Aaaaa hhh!
Ah...
Huh? ...
RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
See? Like this...
ARF!
It's not here... That's weird.
That's odd. There shouldn't be any other hiding places...
MURMUR MURMUR
ざわざわ
So did he do it or not?
What the heck?
Wh... Why?
Huh?
It's not here!

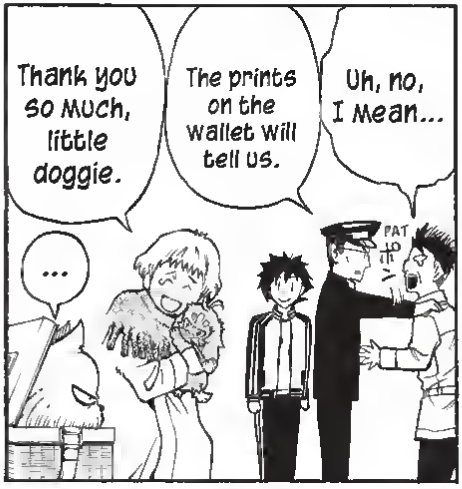

MEOOOOW.
?!
GASP

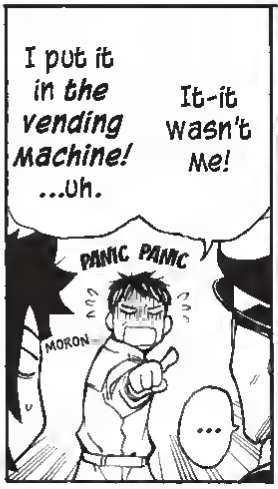

I feel as if I've seen it before.
That defiant look in his eyes...
B-DMP...
B-DMP...
...That cat has been staring at me for some time... There's something strange about him..
B-DMP...

CHILL...
It can't be!!
No...

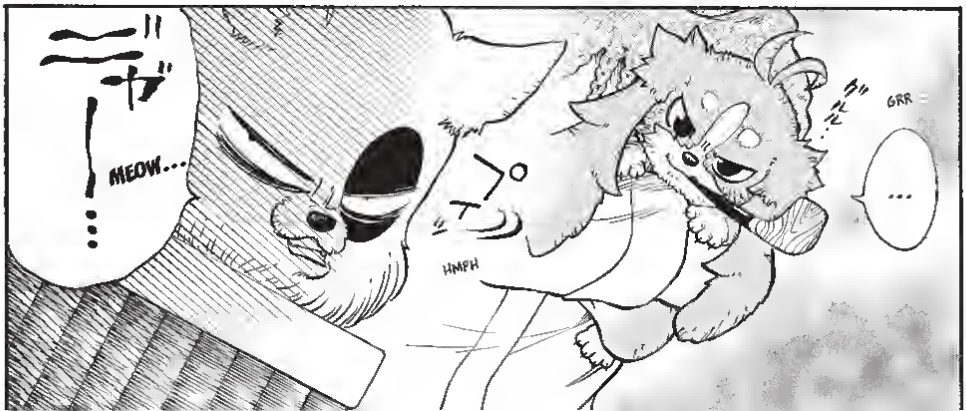
he would deduce
If it is **him**,
If my hunch is correct,
If...
Hey! Sherdog!
TMP
would check the same place twice.
that no one
Ergo...
BAM!
Huh?
Arf arf!

THUD
put the wallet back inside the man's bag!!
He would undoubtedly

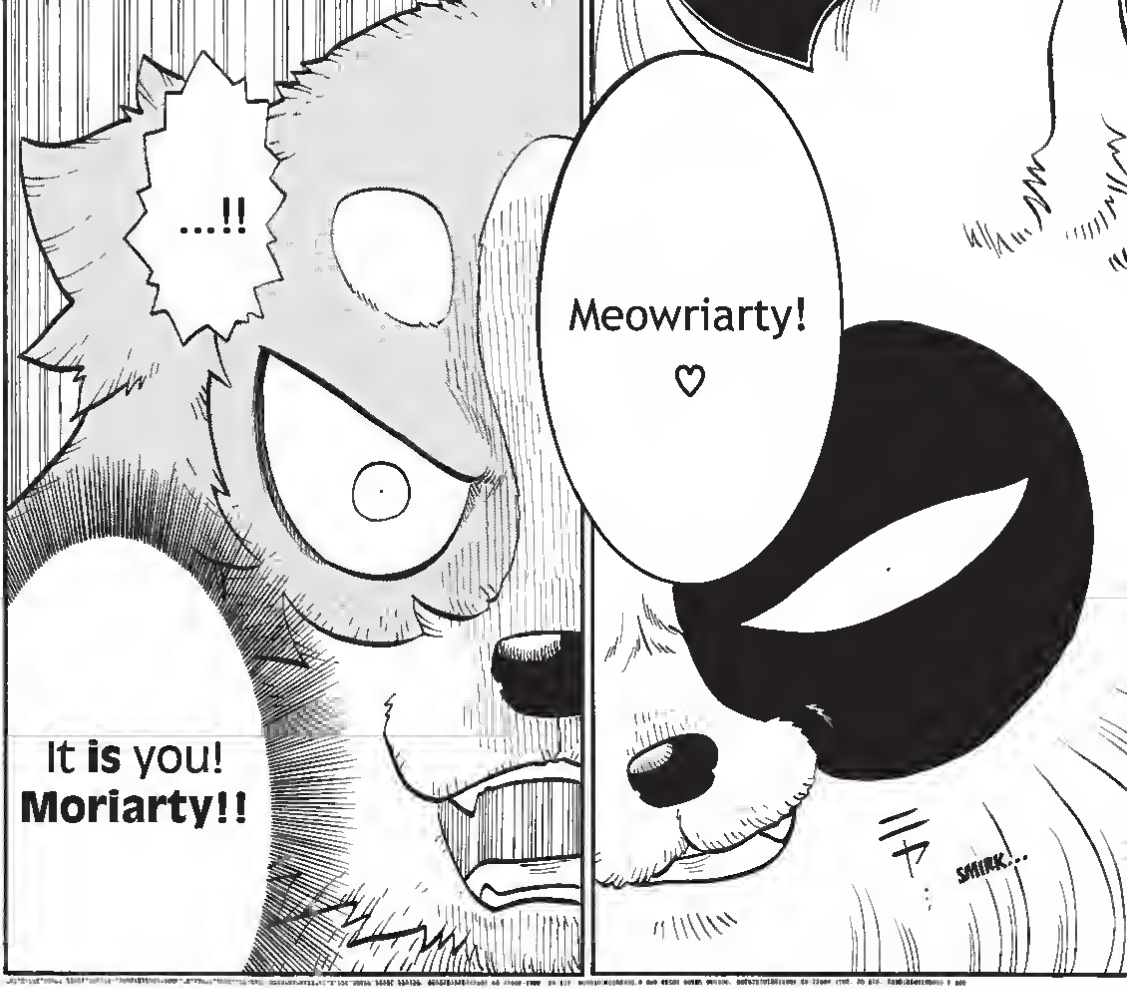

Thank you so much, little doggie.
The prints on the wallet will tell us.
Uh, no, I mean...
...
FAT


I put it in the vending machine! ...Uh.
It-it wasn't me!
PANIC PANIC
MORON
...

What?!
Why?!


MEOW...
HMPH
GRR
...

Wow, what an adventure.
Thank you so much
GRIN
For helping my grandma, Takeru!!
Ansaka
...
SQUEEEEZE
Of course, then I wouldn't have to leave my little kitty.
My passport was in that wallet.
If I lost it, then I wouldn't be able to go to England.
POFF
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU, SHERDOG
Aww, it was nothing.
STARE
That the cat was the mastermind behind it all!!
So we can't rule out the possibility...
It can't be... It can't be, it can't be, it can't be!!
Tee hee hee! I'M happy to have you...
Take good care of him, Miki.
I imagine, his motive was to prevent her from going overseas.
Judging from what the lady tells us,



Holmes Trivia

~James Moriarty~

The criminal mastermind said to be Holmes's greatest rival.

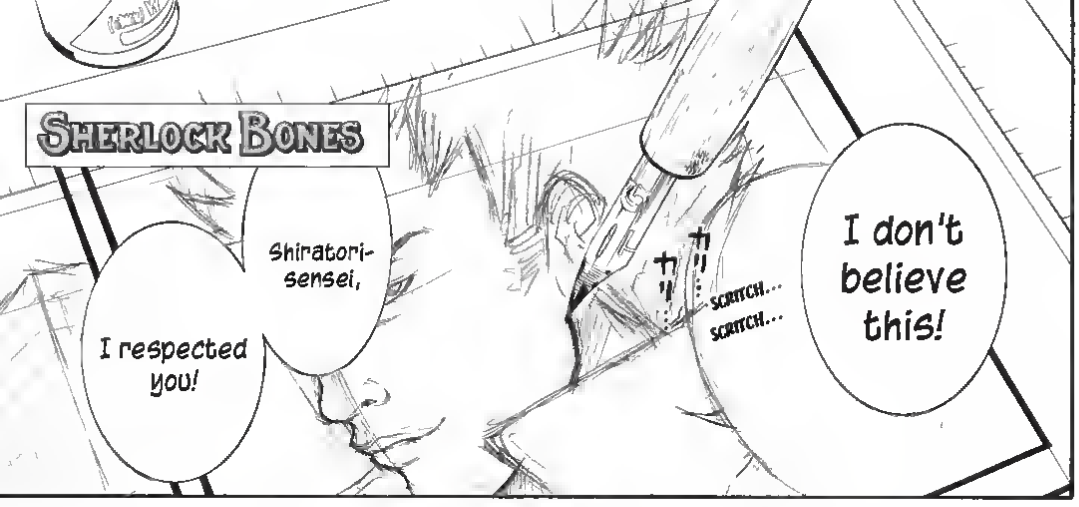
To the general public, he is a retired math professor, but in the underworld he is the head of a massive criminal organization.

He never dirties his own hands, but accomplishes crime by controlling others.

MEOW...
SMIRK
...Heh. I will see you again, Moriarty!! Then we'll settle the score once and for all!
Bye-bye!
See you later!
To think, after an entire century, we would meet again, and under these circumstances.

Your eyes are closed
Pfft
Leaving the Nest
Yearbook

SHERLOCK
BONES

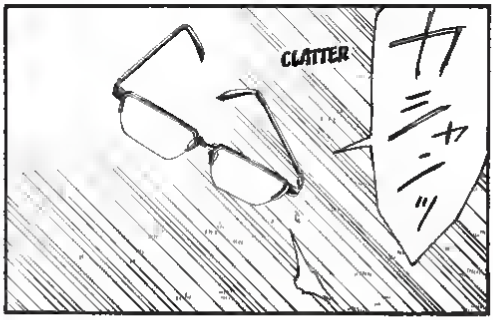


Case 5: ⚜ The Missing Murder Weapon, Part 1

You want more money? Then...
I've had enough!!
This manga is my dream!!
I told you I'd pay you for it, so just...
WHAP
And include the manga I wrote!
...Then I'll write about it on my blog.
I'll tell them you stole my work!!
I'm going to talk this over with my friends!
TWITCH
Will really think that you...
We'll see if my readers...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
only used it for inspiration!
GAH

WHAM

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
SNAP
ZNN


CLATTER

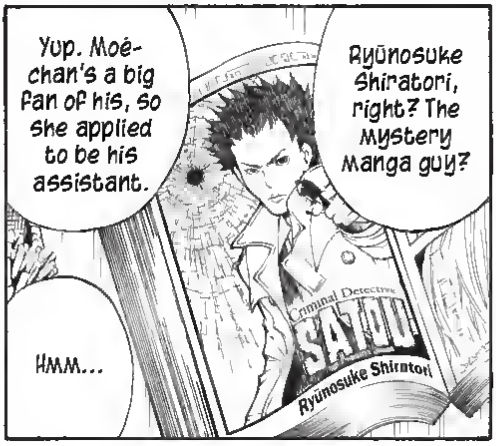
Who...do you think I am...?
I am the world's greatest mystery manga writer...
Ryūnosuke Shiratori!!
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...

BRRRING
WINCE
...!!

...
HM...?
H...hey... Asagi-san...?
D... dammit. I lost my temper...

Man, Asagi sure is late.
She's the one that asked to talk to us, so what's taking her so long?
Moé-chan is a busy girl.
She's an assistant to a famous manga artist.
SQUIRM
SQUIRM

FLIP
FLIP
So what did she want to talk to us about?

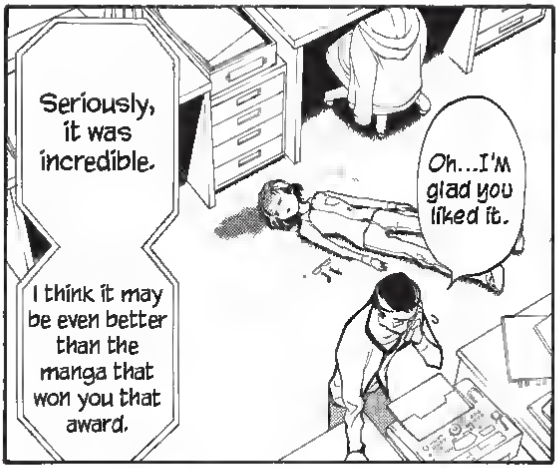

Ryūnosuke Shiratori, right? The Mystery Manga guy?
Yup. Moé-chan's a big fan of his, so she applied to be his assistant.
HMM...
Criminal Detective
SATOU
Ryunosuke Shimtori

...
Well...I've only heard bits and pieces, but...

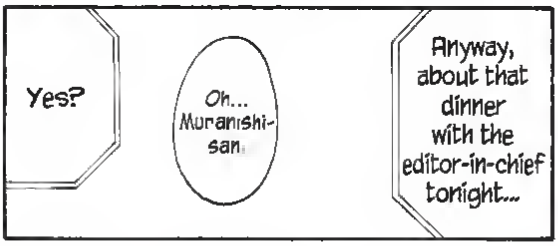
I see.
That is inexcusable.
LICK...

PSST
Do you mean to say she's been plagiarized?
That's exactly what I mean! Stay in there!
NYOO

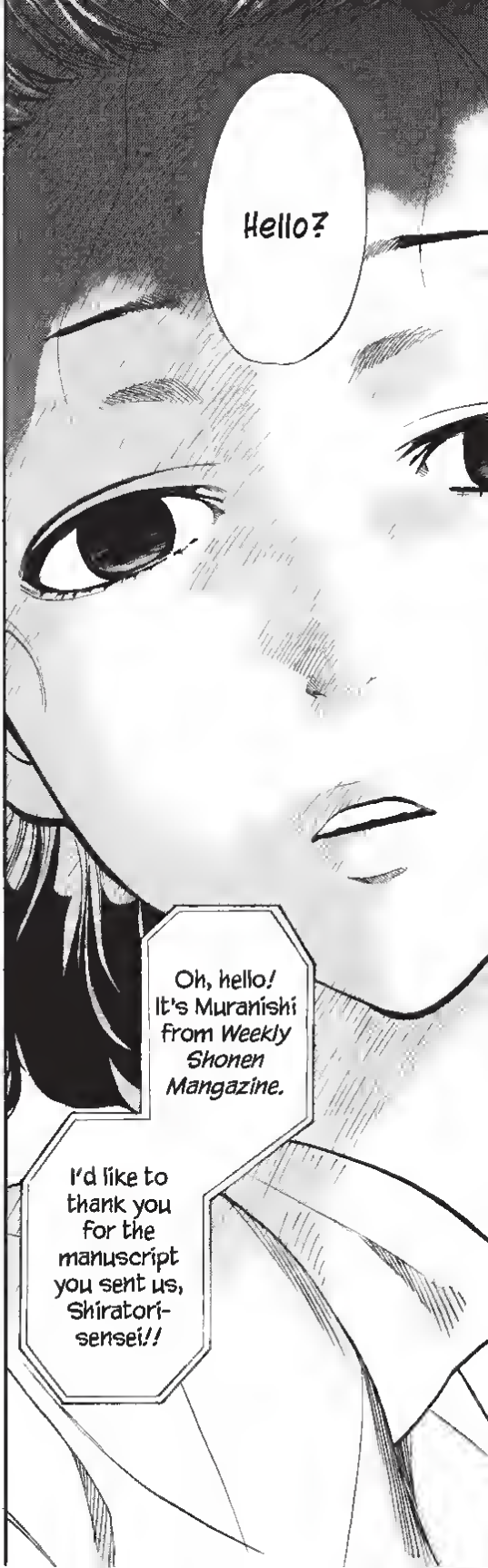
What? Someone stole her work?
Shh!
Takeru! Not so loud!
PERK


Seriously, it was incredible.
I think it may be even better than the manga that won you that award.
Oh...I'm glad you liked it.

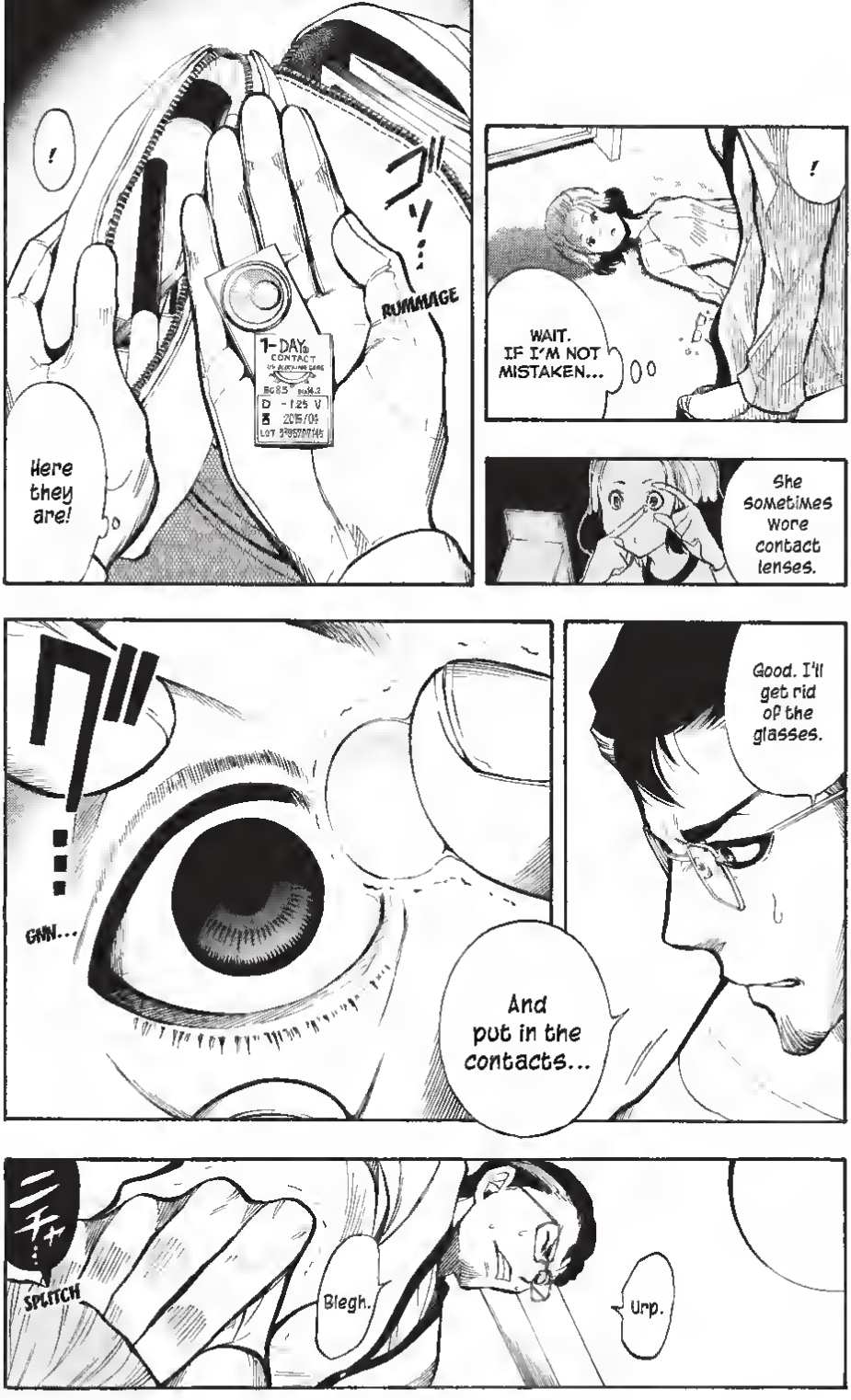
Not... that that's a bad thing.
GLANCE
...
Is it really that good?


Yes?
Oh... Muranishi-san.
Anyway, about that dinner with the editor-in-chief tonight...

What? Really? Well...all right.
Please give my apologies to the editor-in-chief.
I'm sorry... something's come up. I can't make it tonight.
CLICK
I'll talk to you later.


Hello?
Oh, hello! It's Muranishi from *Weekly Shonen Mangazine*.
I'd like to thank you for the manuscript you sent us, Shiratori-sensei!!

I have to move it somewhere.
Oh, no...
...
Now what to do... with the body...?
...They're broken.
Her glasses.
...Nn?
PRK
THEN THE POLICE WILL SEE THAT THEY DON'T HAVE THE WHOLE LENS, AND THEY'LL REALIZE THE BODY MIGHT HAVE BEEN MOVED.
DAMMIT... WHAT DO I DO?
...BUT IF THEY ONLY FIND THE BIGGER PIECES OF GLASS,
THEN I'LL BE THEIR NUMBER ONE SUSPECT!
N...NO. IF THEY FIND ALL THESE BITS...
BAH


!
RUMMAGE
1-DAY
CONTACT
D -1.25 V
Here they are!
!
WAIT. IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN...
She sometimes wore contact lenses.
GAAN...
Good. I'll get rid of the glasses.
And put in the contacts...
SPLITCH
Blegh.
Urp.

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
Now I just need to take care of this carpet...

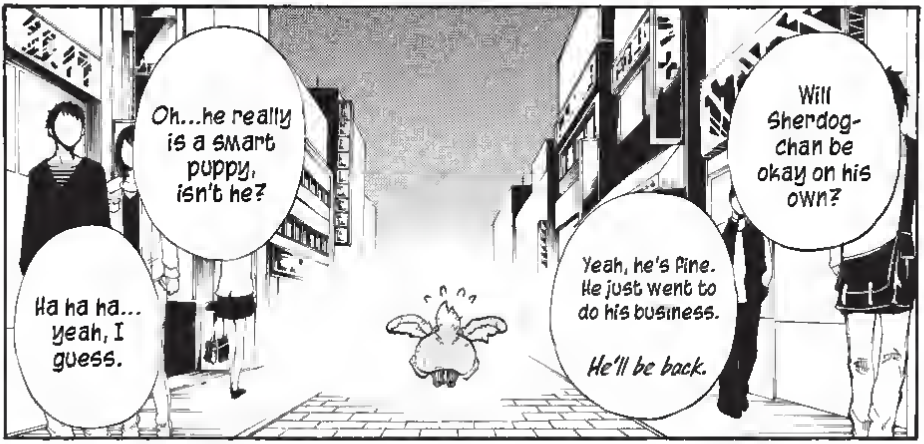
BWW
CALL
...Shut up.
Stupid phone.
BWW

...!!
BWW
BWW
BWW
WINCE

Yeah...and she's not answering her phone.
Seriously, she should be here by now.
Guess I'll try texting her again.

PFFT
I can't help it, I'm a puppy!
If you'll excuse me!
PATTER
Oh?

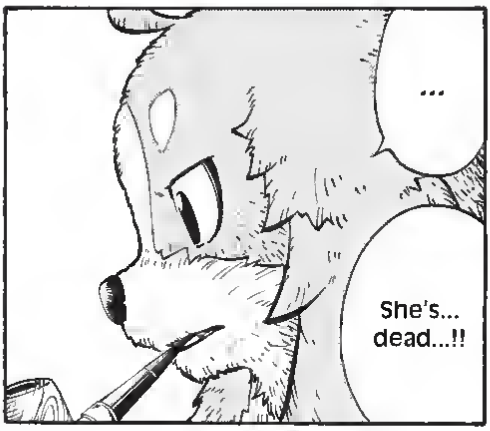
WHAT, AGAIN?
Nature calls... Watson.
NYOO
STOP DRINKING SO MUCH MILK!

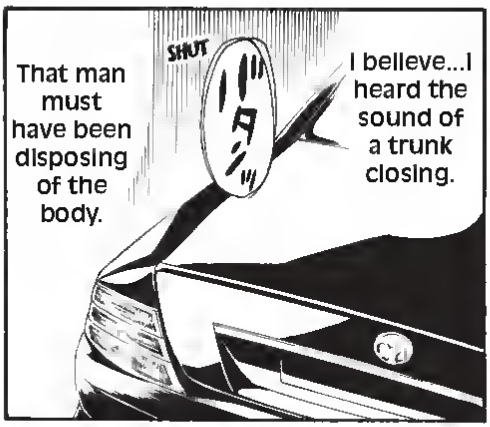

Oh...he really is a smart puppy, isn't he?
Will Sherdog-chan be okay on his own?
Ha ha ha... yeah, I guess.
Yeah, he's fine. He just went to do his business.
He'll be back.

GLANCE
This should work.
KACHAK
KREE
BA-THUNK
...
WHOOPS.
IT MAKES SENSE FOR HER TO BE PASSING THROUGH.
IT'S BETWEEN MY STUDIO AND HER APARTMENT.
ZRR

RRRIP
If she looked like that,
No one will think she was molested.
Whew... damn...
I missed dinner thanks to her.
I'm starving.
THUD
ドサッ
Now all I need to do...

I'd better hurry back...
SHUT
Hm?
Whew, that's better.
I just don't feel right doing it with so many people around.
I've come quite a distance.
TEP
What have we here?
What is that man doing in this alley?
CHAK
There's another smell mixed with the exhaust...
I have a bad feeling about this.
TEP
VROOM
...four..
...Two... one...
He's removing a pair of gloves...
...!


...
She's... dead...!!


That man must have been disposing of the body.
SHUT
I believe...I heard the sound of a trunk closing.

I have his license plate number!
Now I must find Watson...

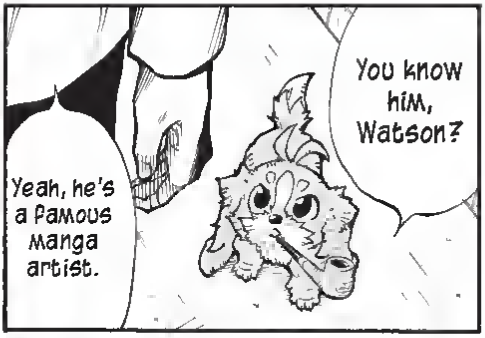
Blood!!

What? A murder?
Yes, I'm sure of it.
It was a girl about your age.
I believe she was hit in the back of the head with a blunt object.
Drive-Thru
Judging from the circum-stances, the murder took place elsewhere.
And the killer brought the body here in his car to dispose of it.
Car...? What kind of car?
And it was a dark color, like that car there.
Z-ZOOM...
ズズ
!
Like nothing I saw back in the nineteenth century...
An expensive German model.
...
Huh?

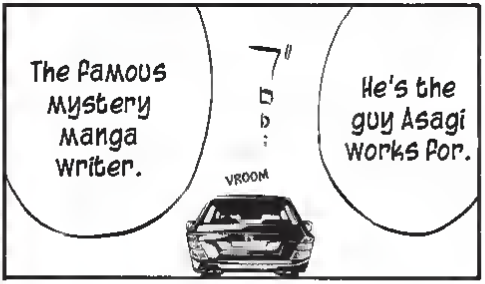
What's wrong?
ARF!
That's the car! I'm sure of it!!
The license number is the same!!
You're kidding! So who is this guy?
TMP
Sorry to keep you waiting.
HUFF
HUFF
!
...

That man...
That...

B-DMP...
B-DMP...
B-DMP...
It...it can't be...
The body you saw...
Was it...?

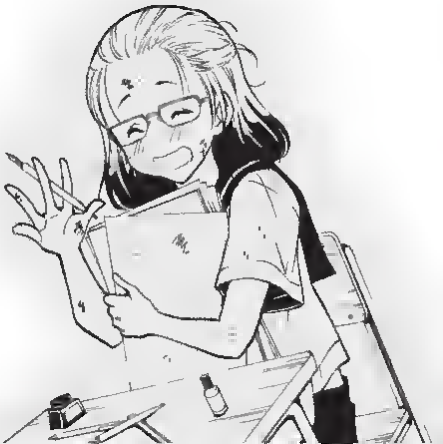

You know him, Watson?
Yeah, he's a famous manga artist.

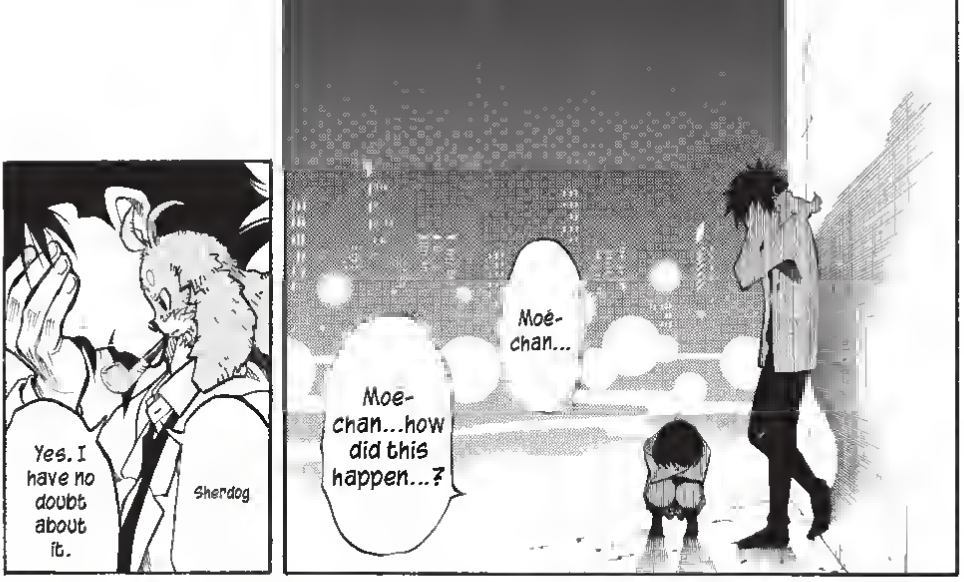
GASP
Manga...?


The famous mystery manga writer.
VROOM
He's the guy Asagi works for.

EP OUT POLICE

POLICE KEEP OUT POLICE KEEP OUT




Moe-chan...
Moe-chan...how did this happen...?
Sherdog
Yes. I have no doubt about it.

Do you think
this has something to do with
the plagiarism thing Miki was talking about?
SNIFFLE

Award-Winning Manga
The murderer
is her manga-writing employer.
Ryūnosuke Shiratori.
Ryūnosuke Shiratori-sensei

That would establish a motive.
...If it does,
then the plagiarist would be Shiratori.
THMP

He won't get away with this...I won't let him.
Of course we won't.

We'll tear the mask off his face, Watson.
He's a cold-blooded manga artist who has the gall to fill his stomach after killing a girl.

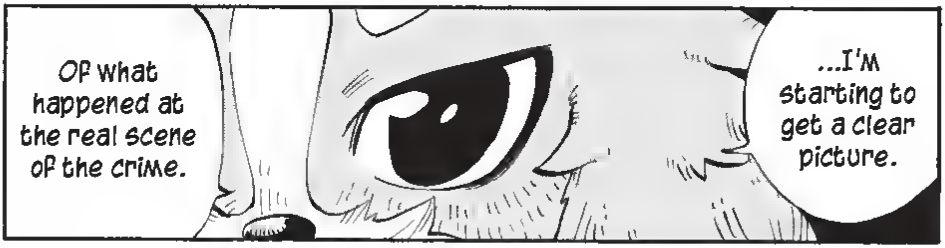
You bet we will!!
LONDON
ZSH

Thank you so much, Airin-san!
Thank you!
Well, you have been unusually smart lately, and you did discover the body...
If you think of anything, then I'll hear you out.

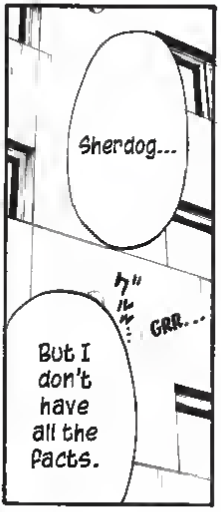
Case 5: A The Missing Murder Weapon, Part 2

1
Let's see...she was walking alone down a dark street when a thug attacked her with the intent to do harm.
She resisted, and he struck her down, killing her...that's the gist of it.
Okay, Airin-nechan. First, what do the police think about the crime scene?
Inspector Wajima.
I see. You may be right...
I don't think that's possible!
Sis!
The way she fell. Look...
What? Why not?
Well, that's not so strange.
No, but...
...
...
So she almost never wore them while working. She wore glasses.
That's weird...Moè told me that contacts dry her eyes and tire them out.
And we found these soft contact lenses.
We opened the vic's eyes to get a look at her pupils.
What?

Now, that *is* strange.
...What?


Or what happened at the real scene of the crime.
...I'm starting to get a clear picture.

Yeah!
It's time we infiltrate the enemy base.


Sherdog...
GRR...
But I don't have all the facts.

What?!
Asagi-san?
Mur-dered...?

Hm? Oh... When a girl is found lying in an alley,
it's only natural to assume there was violence involved.
...All I said was she was lying in an alley.
Huh?
To think someone would assault such a nice girl...
Yes.
Miki and I found her lying in an alley
between here and her apart-ment.
That... that's awful.

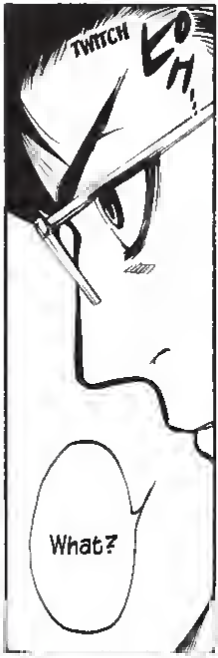
CRIMINAL DETECTIVE SATOU
This is what I do.
...!!
You figured out all that from that tiny piece of conversation.
Wow, that's a Mystery Manga writer for you.
See?
Well, I do spend every day thinking of murder scenarios.
!
Arf!!
That's Uh pretty graphic...
...
Ugh...
What exactly are you doing here?
...So by the way.
Well, it's Manga. You have to be able to see the Face.
Why are all the bodies Facing up?

If you just wanted to tell me what happened, then...
Uh, no, actually, we're her friends, so we came to collect her personal belongings.
Asagi's parents are overseas, and she was living alone.

GRIT
Letting a dog in my studio...

TEP TEP
!

Oh... in that case, come in.
Thank you.


TWITCH
What?

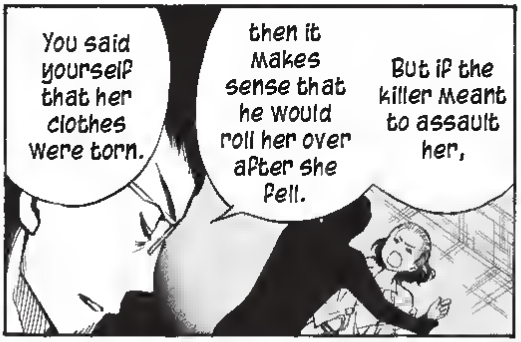
It might not have been sexual assault.
...
I hope they arrest the rapist soon...

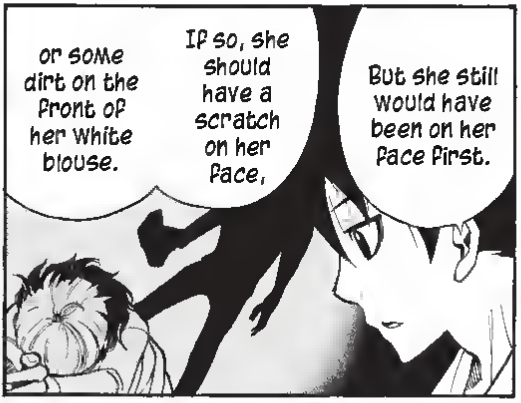
WHAT IS HE GETTING AT?
...Didn't fit?
I mean, yeah, her clothes were torn up...
and the police are pursuing that line of reasoning.
But there was something that didn't really fit...
Asagi was lying face up in the alley.
The way the body had fallen.
...
I BETTER PLAY DUMB... JUST IN CASE.
What's wrong with that?
I don't know...
As a *Mystery Manga artist.*
What do you think about that?

Oh, right, I forgot to mention.
So I think she should have fallen face-down.
Asagi was struck with a blunt object in the back of the head.

PUNK KID...
So what are you trying to say?

But there was nothing like that.
Not a trace.

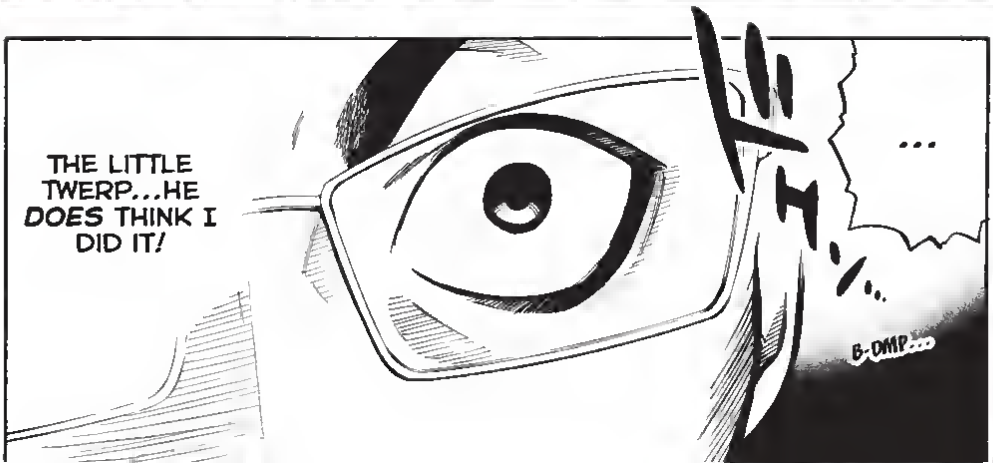

You said yourself that her clothes were torn.
then it makes sense that he would roll her over after she fell.
But if the killer meant to assault her,


or some dirt on the front of her white blouse.
If so, she should have a scratch on her face,
But she still would have been on her face first.

Ha ha ha... you're quite the super sleuth.
...
B-DMP...
She was here working before the incident...
But then... Where was she killed?
B-DMP...
That's the problem.
Since her white blouse was still clean,
I think it must have happened indoors... but.
B-DMP...
I think it's possible that Asagi was killed somewhere else,
then she was tossed in the alley
to make it look like she had been assaulted.

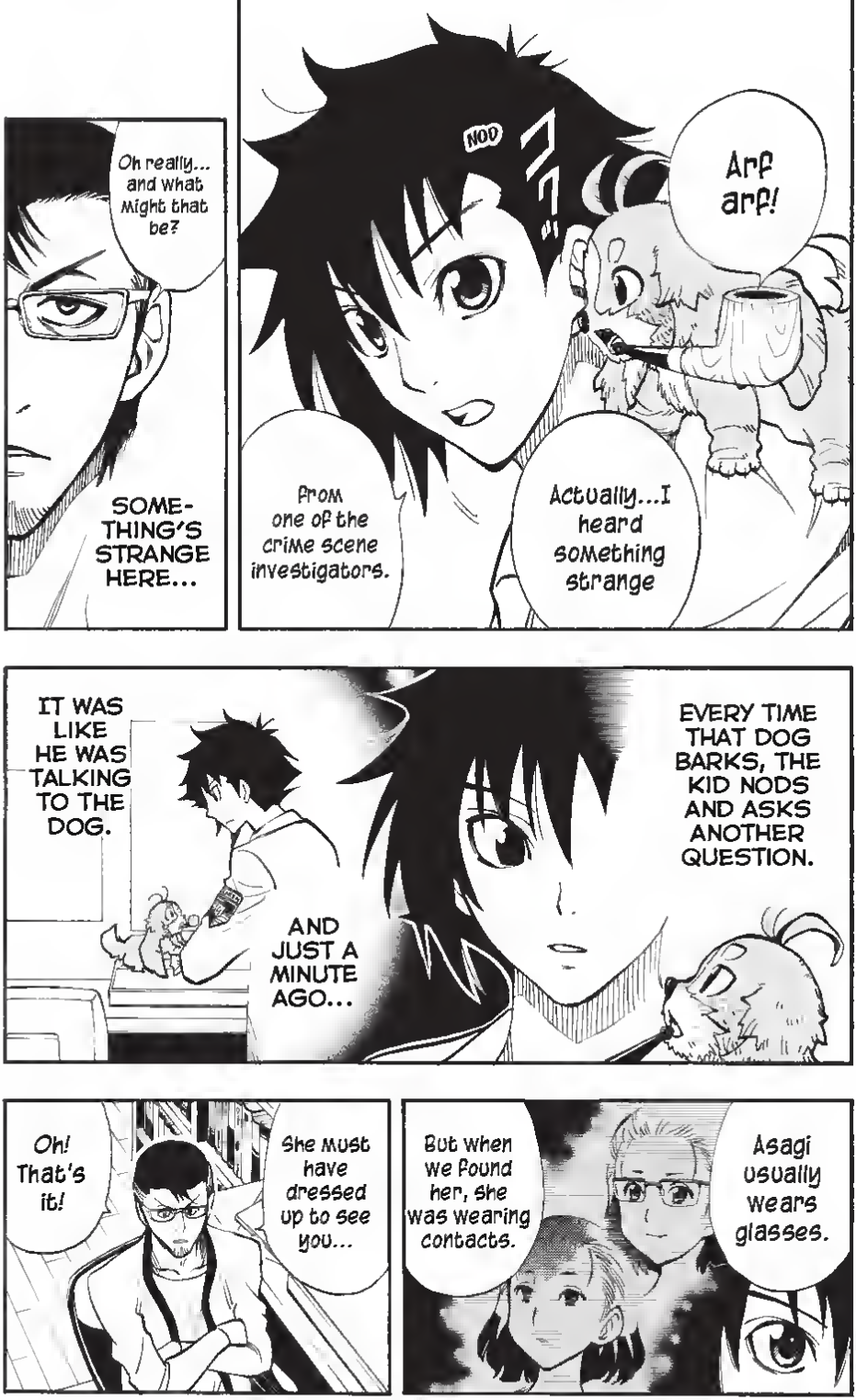
WcDo.
She had plans to meet up with us.
So where would she have gone after work
that would end up getting her killed?

Shiratori-sensei.
Do you have any ideas?


...
B-DMP...
THE LITTLE TWERP...HE DOES THINK I DID IT!

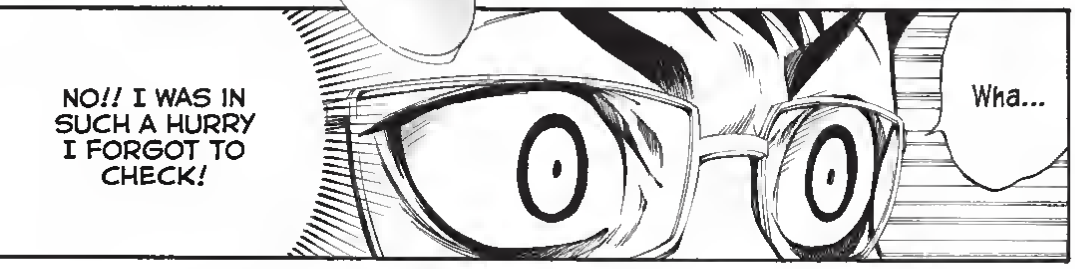
...Of course. Sorry to bother you when you're so busy.
I still have work to do.
...
All of her things are in that desk. If you're done here, would you please leave.
I don't know...I make it a point not to pry into my assistants' personal lives.
...?
I know what was wrong with the contact lenses!
ワン ARF
ARF ワン!!!
I have it, Watson!
TWITCH
Huh? What do you mean?
GULP
キリ
It wasn't that recently, but yes.
Like, really recently?
What? Yes...
Huh? But...
Did you change your carpet?
Shiratori-sensei?

You're sure it wasn't super recent?
See? The price tag's still attached.
YANK
But someone of your caliber, Shiratori-sensei? You'd have an assistant buy your rug, right?
No! I was in such a hurry...
And have them take the price tag off, right?
C-come on, everyone forgets to pull a price tag off once in a while...
Don't you think you're being rude? Snooping around someone else's home?
...No, I bought that rug myself.
Good, Watson! You're closing in on him!!
ARF ARF
Next...
THAT WAS ALL THEY HAD AT THE LATE-NIGHT SUPER-MARKET, DAMMIT!!
Do you have a problem with my personal tastes?
Plain green curtains and a bright pink floral carpet.
Do those really go together...?


Oh really... and what might that be?
SOME-THING'S STRANGE HERE...
NOD
Arf arf!
From one of the crime scene investigators.
Actually...I heard something strange
IT WAS LIKE HE WAS TALKING TO THE DOG.
AND JUST A MINUTE AGO...
EVERY TIME THAT DOG BARKS, THE KID NODS AND ASKS ANOTHER QUESTION.
Oh! That's it!
She must have dressed up to see you...
But when we found her, she was wearing contacts.
Asagi usually wears glasses.

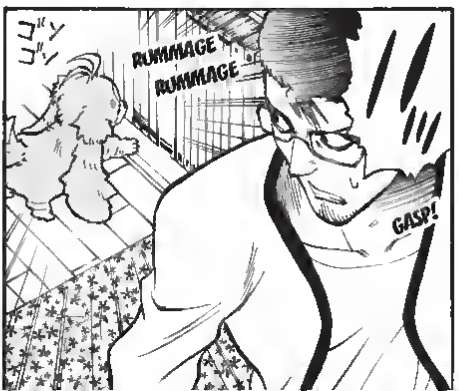
GLANCE
Arp!
Why go to the trouble of moving her?
If she were attacked in a bathroom, why not just leave her there?
She must have stopped in someplace to go to the restroom and put her contacts in...
that's where she was attacked, and where she fell.
The bathroom must have just been cleaned.
And that's why her blouse didn't get dirty
...
To assault her further.
CLACK
What?
Hm.
It leaves some unanswered questions.
and then realized that in his attempt to knock her out, he hit her too hard and killed her.
He put her in a car to do his dirty work,
What do you think? I should say that explains it.
So he tossed her in the alley.

The contact lenses
were put in backwards!!


NO!! I WAS IN SUCH A HURRY I FORGOT TO CHECK!
Wha...

RUSTLE
THE... THE LIT-TLE...
she had been alive.
She would have noticed pretty quick that her contacts weren't in right if...

A weapon... or...
There must be some definitive proof.
SNIFF SNIFF

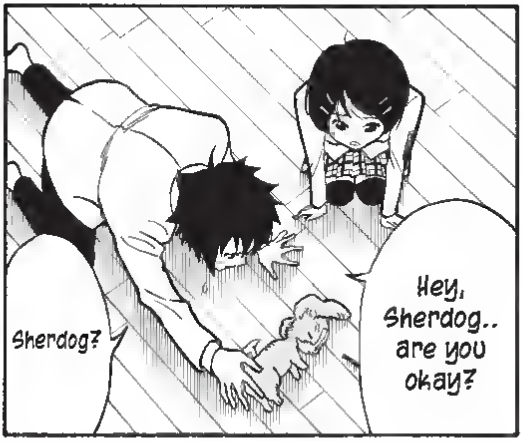

RUMMAGE RUMMAGE
GASP!

DON'T TOUCH THAT!!
SWOOSH
GAH
WHAM
Sherdog!

ZRR

Uh...I was worried that he would hurt My manuscripts.
What are you doing, Sensei?!!
THUD
Sherdog-chan!!

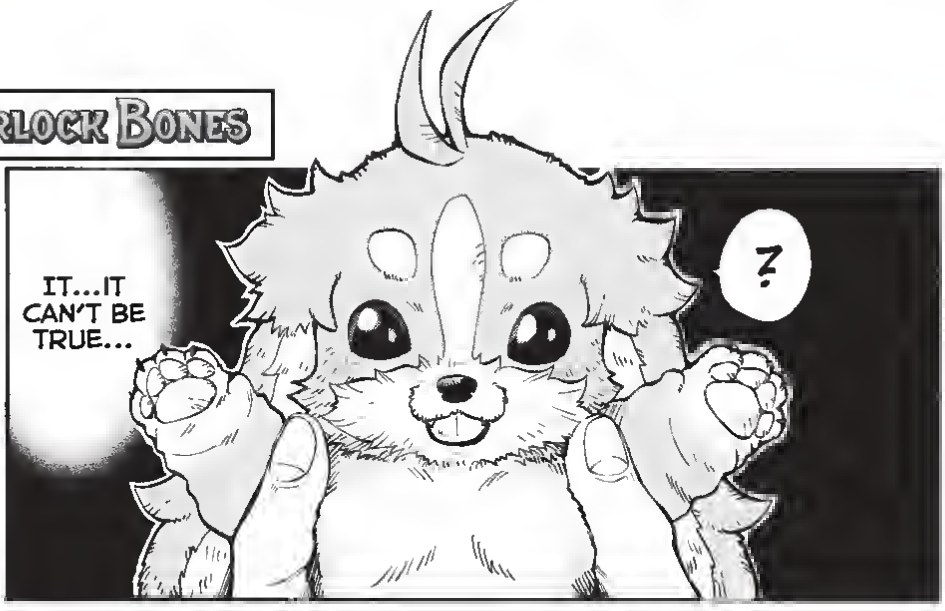
Sher...
MMK...
47...


Sherdog?
Hey, Sherdog.. are you okay?

Arf!

...
Huh?
...H-hey, Sherdog?
Oh, good...
SCRITCH SCRITCH
GRAB
BLANK
Arf!
What's wrong with you?
You're acting like a dog...
Here's your pipe.
WAG WAG
You're kidding... right?
...

Sherdog...
...reverted to a normal dog!
?



Case 5: ⚜ The Missing Murder Weapon, Part 3

Y... yeah...
Tell him, Takeru!
H-how could you... You just threw him across the room!!
...It's your own fault for bringing a dog here. A manga artist like myself has a lot of valuable material lying around.
Anyway, get Asagi-san's things and leave!

BUT I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO ASK HIM WHAT IT WAS.
SNIFF... SNIFF
<w<h...
THIS IS BAD... SHERDOG REALIZED SOME-THING. WHEN WE GOT HERE.

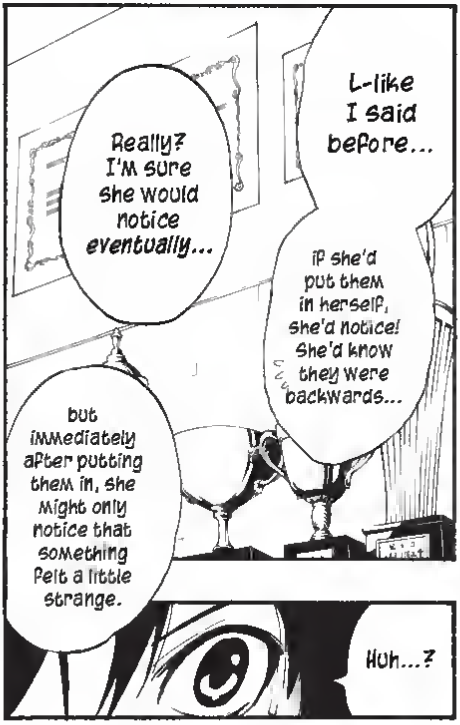
Let me ask you—what do you think it means?
...I have no idea.
CREAK

ANYWAY, I'LL JUST HAVE TO USE WHAT I ALREADY KNOW.
You might know what it means...that her contacts were in backwards.
I...I just thought...since you're an expert mystery writer.

...
he, um... found contact lenses... in Asagi's bag....
then... to hide that...
her glasses... broke...
the murderer killed her in his own room.
I...I think...
and when it happened...
then he... got rid of the broken glasses.
and put them in her eyes...
...
SMIRK...
...You think so?
AND HE WAS IN SUCH A HURRY TO GET IT DONE, HE BOUGHT A CARPET THAT DIDN'T MATCH THE ROOM... RIGHT?
SO HE GOT RID OF ALL THE GLASSES PIECES AND THE BLOOD-STAINED CARPET.
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS IS THE SCENE OF THE CRIME!!

CREAK
For the sake of argument, let's say you're right.
Couldn't the killer just gather up the glasses pieces and leave them at the scene?
GH
He'd have no reason to do something as disgusting as putting contacts on a dead body.
W... well...

Oh, I see...the thug found her in the public restroom right after she put in her contacts.
Then he hit her from behind with this "blunt weapon" of yours.


L-like I said before...
Really? I'M sure she would notice *eventually*...
If she'd put them in herself, she'd notice! She'd know they were backwards...
but immediately after putting them in, she might only notice that something felt a little strange.
Huh...?

Grr...
she was knocked unconscious... how about that?
And before she even realized there was anything wrong with her contacts,
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME-THING...
IT ALL SEEMS TO ADD UP.
I think that solves our mystery.
Was that helpful at all?
WHAT... WHAT DO I DO...?
クゥ～ン...
WHIMPER...
COME ON, SHER-DOG!!
GASP
ASAGI...!!
DAMMIT...

The Murder weapon!!
That's it...
the weapon!
BAM!

They said that usually that type of weapon gets left at the scene.
But...
It wasn't there...it wasn't at the crime scene.
According to the investigation, the weapon was something big, blunt, and heavy.

TWITCH

...
What about it?

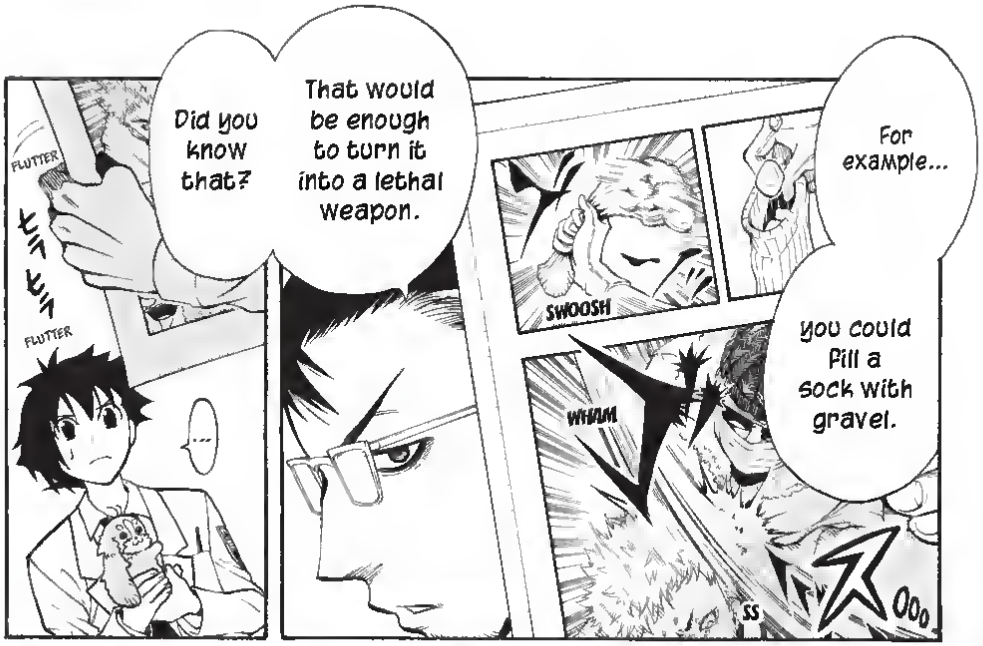
and they couldn't find one anywhere!!
they looked all around the area,

Th... then...
Wouldn't the killer... have left the body in the restroom, too?
If the crime was committed in a public restroom, for example,
You yourself are saying she was killed somewhere else.
Like I said, what about it?
Wouldn't the weapon be there?
See? It's a contra-diction!!
...
But if he really just left the weapon in the place where she was killed...
then wouldn't he have left the body there, too?
was trying to make us think that the murder happened in the alley where we found her...
If... if the killer...
he would have...taken the weapon with him...and left it there.

I'M STARTING TO SHAKE HIM...I THINK.
O... OKAY!
...
Th-that makes sense...
...

I DON'T NEED SHERDOG..
AND BRING ASAGI'S KILLER TO JUSTICE!!
I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN WITHOUT HIM!!

What kind of reason?
I don't know...Maybe the weapon... would have tied him to the murder.
So, uh... basically, the killer...
had some reason...that he had to cover up the real scene of the crime.
And the weap-on...
it would have been more convenient... to leave it with the body.
But there was some reason...he couldn't do that.
...
...
...STAY CALM.
HE'S JUST GRASPING AT ANY STRAW WITHIN REACH.
HE DOESN'T ACTUALLY KNOW ANY-THING...
ss...
Maybe the weapon disappeared— Maybe it doesn't exist anymore.
?!


Did you know that?
That would be enough to turn it into a lethal weapon.
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
...
For example...
you could fill a sock with gravel.
SWOOSH
WHAM
SS
Ooo

So thinking quickly, he took off his sock.
He didn't have a weapon on hand,
He spotted Asagi when she went to use the restroom,
The criminal was in his car, keeping an eye out for a suitable victim.
Then, with his makeshift weapon,
He picked up some gravel off the ground around his feet, and stuffed it inside.
and made her his target!
he came up from behind, and...

And when he was about to carry out his purpose,
Then he put her in his car, and took her somewhere deserted.
he realized the girl was dead.
and threw it out.
took the body to the first place he could find.
put the bloody sock on his foot.
The killer panicked. He poured the gravel out of his sock.
So he tried to make it look like she was attacked by a passerby.
He didn't want anyone to know there was a car involved.
But...
Why didn't he leave the body there?
But...but if he was already in a deserted place,

So you're saying that this random place he found
just happened to be on her way from your studio to her home?
That's some coincidence...
What could it be *but* a coincidence?

...I killed her.
you think
GLARE

Don't tell me
...

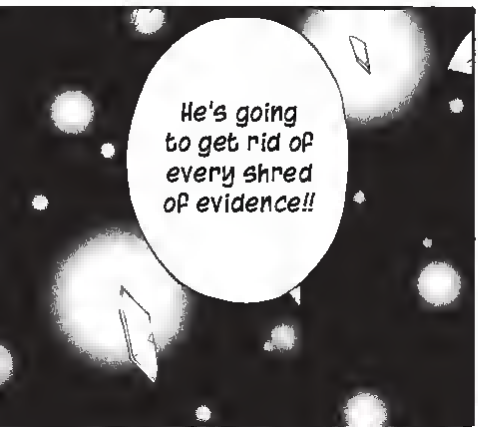
Moé was *here* before we found her dead!
CLATTER
...Now see here.
Didn't you kill her, Shiratori-sensei?!
M... Miki...!
Didn't you?

WINCE
What you just said is slander. ...And very serious slander at that.
...but there are some things that should never be spoken.
Children like you get away with saying a lot of things...
You need to go home and ask your daddy
What happens when you accuse innocent people of crimes!
CLATTER
You have no proof—it's all speculation.
Y-you won't scare me...
Miki!!

...It's okay.
I'm sorry, Takeru. I couldn't help myself.
Hic
Hic
...He kicked us out.
Hic
Hic
But Takeru, you were just like a real detective! And that's not the first time you...
Your limit...?
But on my own...that was my limit.
I wanted to say the same thing.
What... do you mean?
Huh?
Everything I did, I did it with a real detective at my side.
It's not what you think, Miki.

you'll believe me.
I need to tell you something.
I think...

We have to hurry. He's a mystery writer...
Dammit!


He's going to get rid of every shred of evidence!!

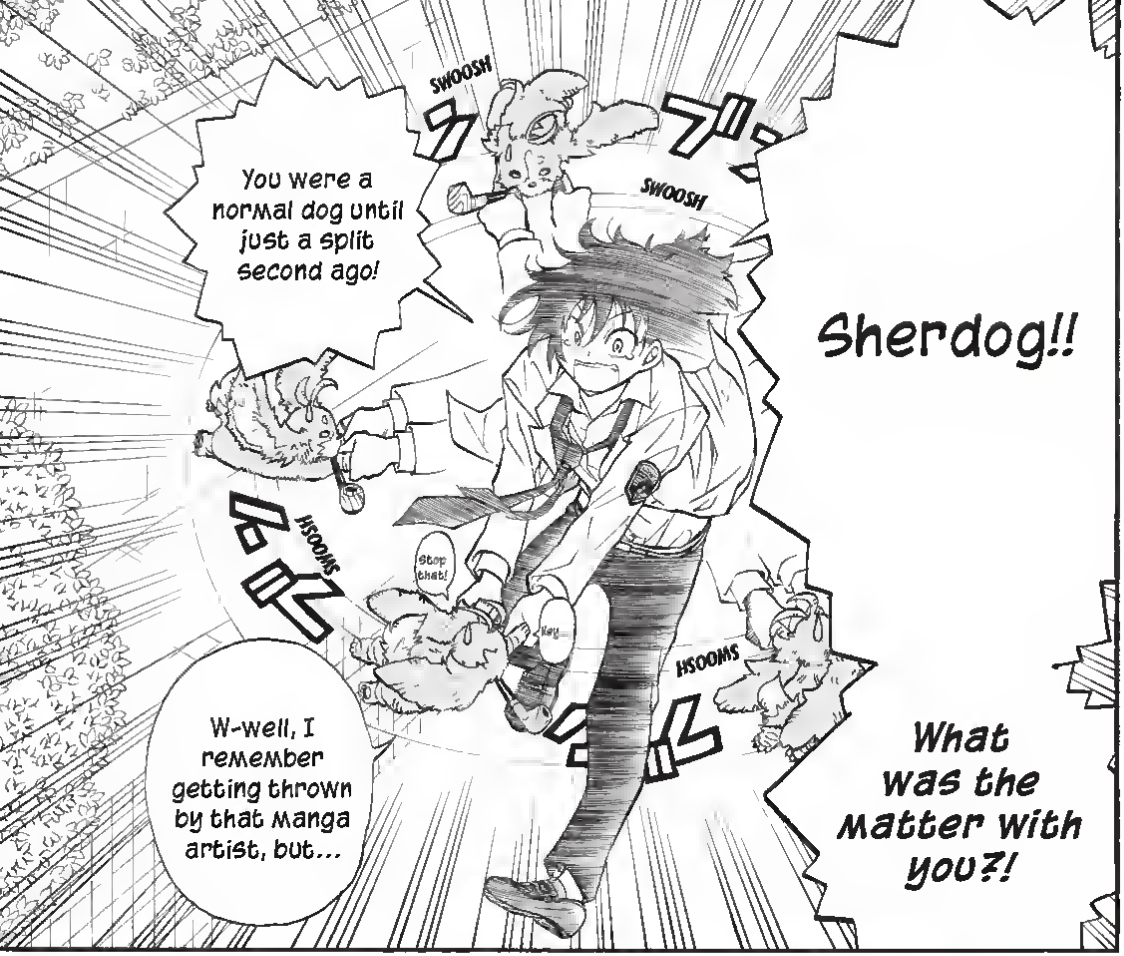
But now, he's...

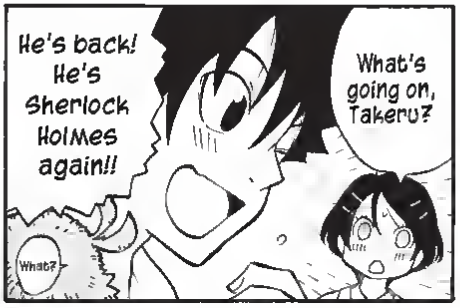
I caught all those criminals because he was helping me.
Yeah.
You mean... Sherdog-chan?
The reincarnation of Holmes?!
SNIFF SNIFF

Are you really just a dog now?
スッ…
ss...
You...
WHIMPER
WHIMPER
クゥーン
クゥーン
Sherdog...
I need your incredible powers
of deduction and observation.
Will you never talk to me again?
Ack!
He peed on me!!
WIZ
One more time.
Help me...

Was Sherlock Holmes... all an illusion...?
Was the arrogant English gentleman...
Ha ha. It's no use.
Takeru! Are you okay?
He's totally a normal puppy now.
CHAMP
わん

What's the matter?
My dear Watson.
Why the long face?
Sherdog...
...
S...


You were a normal dog until just a split second ago!
SWOOSH
SWOOSH
Sherdog!!
SWOOSH
Stop that!
Key
HSOOMS
W-well, I remember getting thrown by that manga artist, but...
What was the matter with you?!

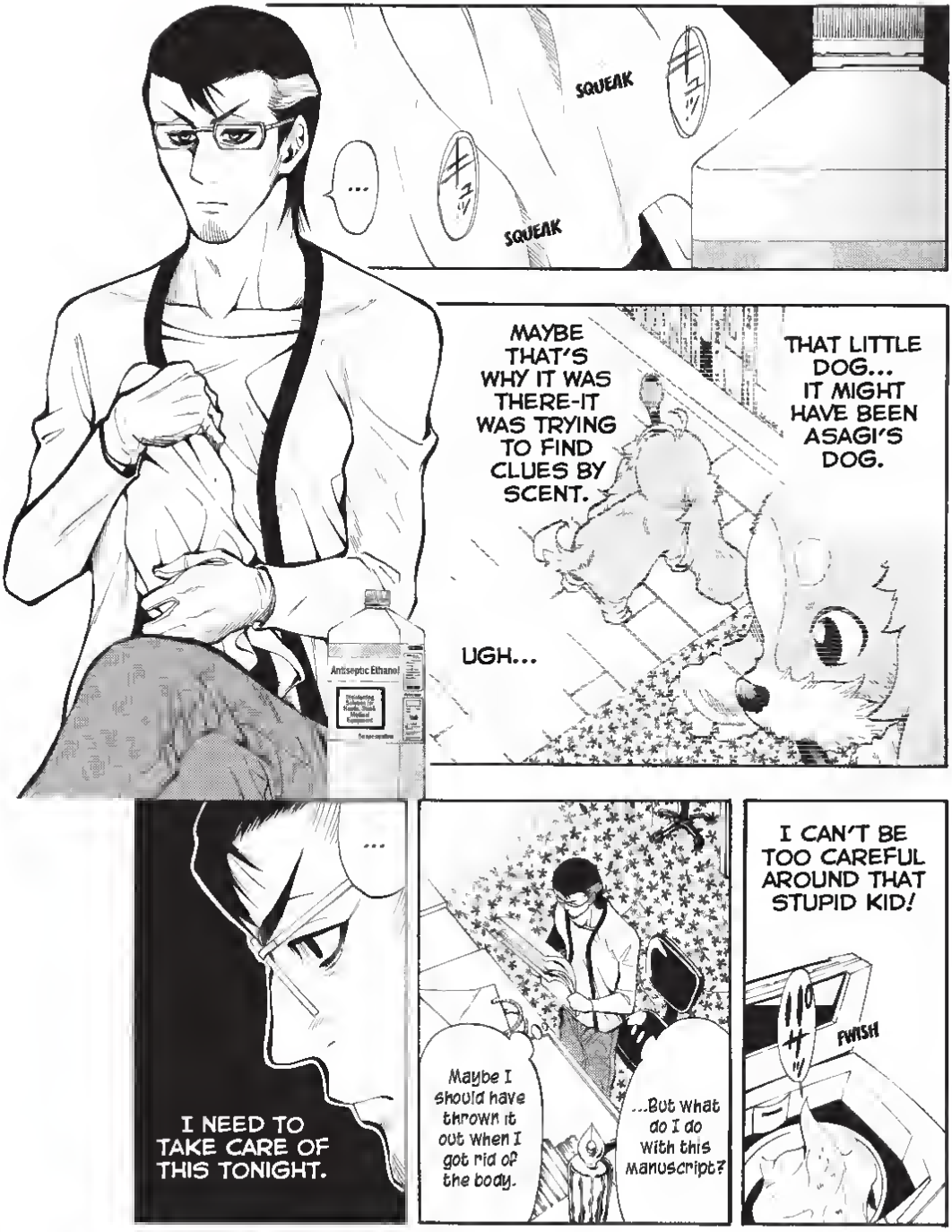

He's back! He's Sherlock Holmes again!!
What's going on, Takeru?
What?

Ha ha ha, are you crying? Surely it wasn't that bad.
NUZZLE
NUZZLE
NUZZLE
Maybe you changed back after you peed?
I'M so glad to have you back, Sherdog!!

Oh? What might those be?
But because of it, I realized some things that might be key to this case.
Yup.
HMMM...so that's what happened while I was unconscious.

Hmm, I see.
ARF ARF!
Not bad, Watson.
You see...
Is he really talking?
...
Leave that to me, Watson. I have an idea.
ARF ARF ARF
But we have to get back into his studio somehow.
GLANCE...
Yes.
An idea?
The Missing Murder weapon,
and the reason he threw out her glasses!!
We'll use Miss Miki's phone.
ARF!
Miki's...?
And give him no choice but to let us in his room!!
Me?
Huh?
BLANK

Case 5: ⚜ The Missing Murder Weapon, Part 4


...
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
Antiseptic Ethanol
MAYBE THAT'S WHY IT WAS THERE-IT WAS TRYING TO FIND CLUES BY SCENT.
THAT LITTLE DOG... IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ASAGI'S DOG.
UGH...
...
I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF THIS TONIGHT.
Maybe I should have thrown it out when I got rid of the body.
...But what do I do with this manuscript?
I CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL AROUND THAT STUPID KID!
FWISH

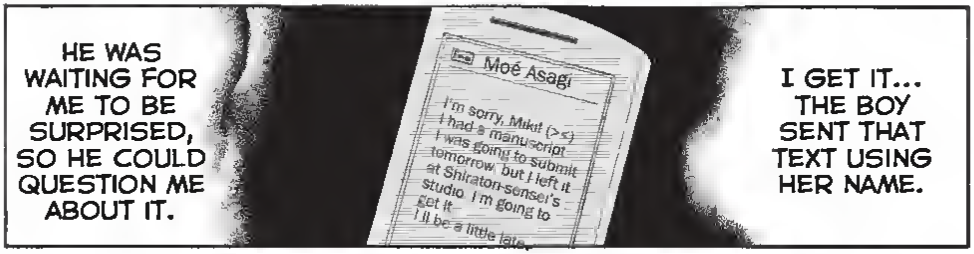
CHAK
Oh!
Oh, good.
You're still here!
...?!

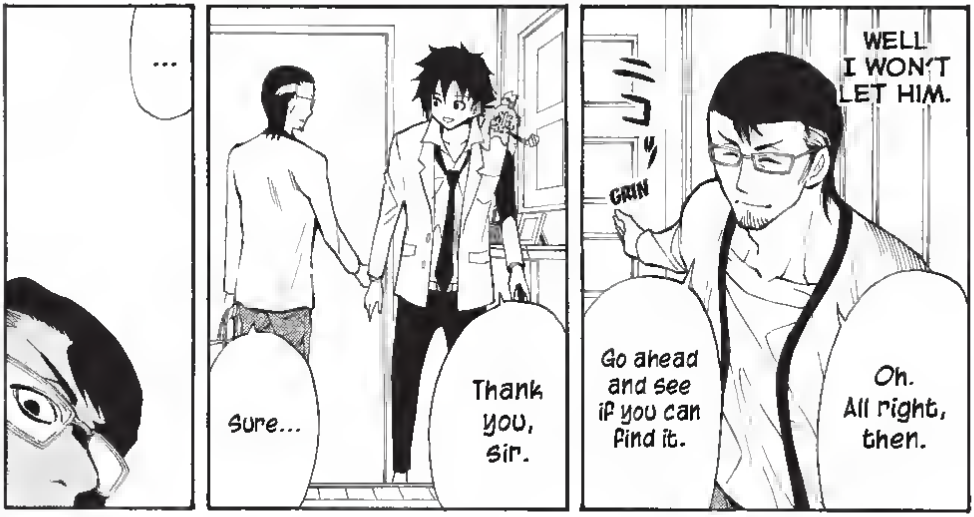
I'm so sorry.
You're my best friend's mentor. I shouldn't have said those terrible things.
ペコッ
BOW
I came back to apologize.
...That's all right. I'm sure you were shaken up by your friend's death.
I forgive you. Now it's late—you should get home.
Yes, but I just have one last favor to ask you...
We were hoping you'd let us look for Asagi's manuscript.
!
...Manu-script?
Yes.
See this text message?
From
Moé Asagi
I'm sorry, Miki! (><)
I had a manuscript
I was going to submit
tomorrow, but I left it
at Shiratori-sensei's
studio. I'm going to
get it.
I'll be a little late.
...
HOW DID SHE GET THIS TEXT?

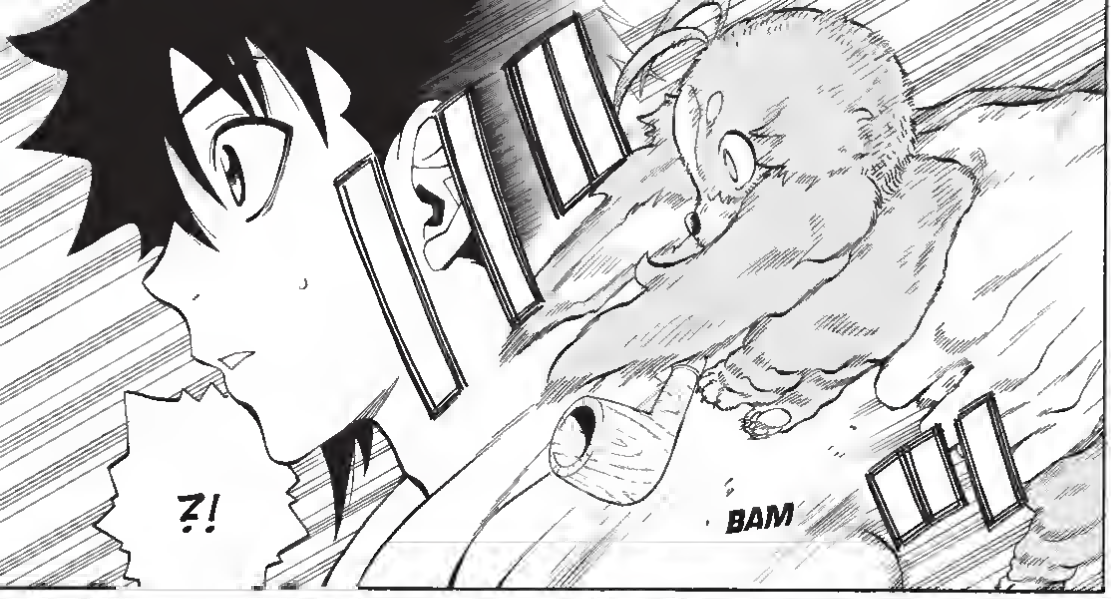
...!!
...

She must have been attacked on her way back.
I'm sorry. I should have checked my phone
You were right, Shiratori-sensei.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
ASAGI NEVER LEFT THE STUDIO.

GLANCE
チラ!!


HE WAS WAITING FOR ME TO BE SURPRISED, SO HE COULD QUESTION ME ABOUT IT.
Moé Asagi
I'm sorry, Mika! (>_<)
I had a manuscript I was going to submit tomorrow, but I left it at Shiraton-sensei's studio. I'm going to get it.
I'll be a little late.
I GET IT... THE BOY SENT THAT TEXT USING HER NAME.


...
Sure...
Thank you, sir.
GRIN
Go ahead and see if you can find it.
WELL I WON'T LET HIM.
Oh. All right, then.


?!
BAM

OR IF HE'S BARKING BECAUSE HE DOESN'T LIKE ME HOLDING HIM
NOW THEY WON'T KNOW IF HE'S BARKING BECAUSE HE SMELLS ASAGI'S MANUSCRIPT,
THE DOG MAY BE SMART, BUT IT STILL CAN'T TALK.

...!
ARF
ARF

ARF
ARF
ARF
ARF
ARF
We wouldn't want a repeat of what happened earlier.
I'll hold that dog for you.

OF COURSE! GOT IT.
NOD

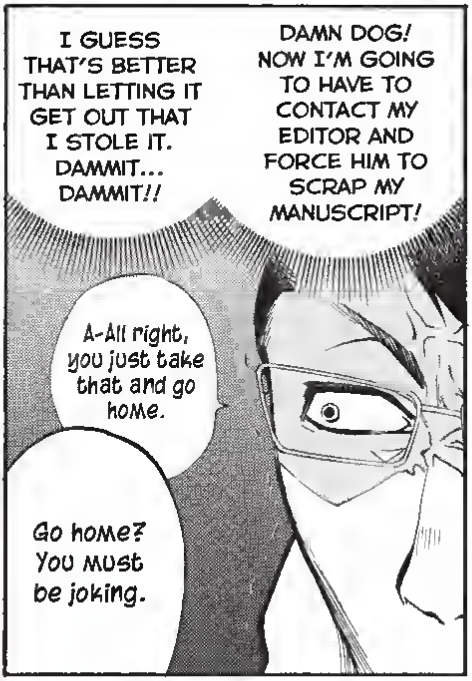
There is only one reason for him to pick me up.
ARF
ARF
ARF
Don't worry, Watson!!

Yeowz?!
CHOMP
I'm so sorry. That must be important!
GAH
Let me see if he damaged anything.
Uh...!
Ack! Hey, Sherdog!!
Ngh
THUD
TMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
You're right. It has her signature on it!
This manuscript... isn't it Asagi's?
RUSTLE
...Huh?

Now we know
your motive for killing Asagi.
All we need is some definitive proof. We can't leave!
Wha...!

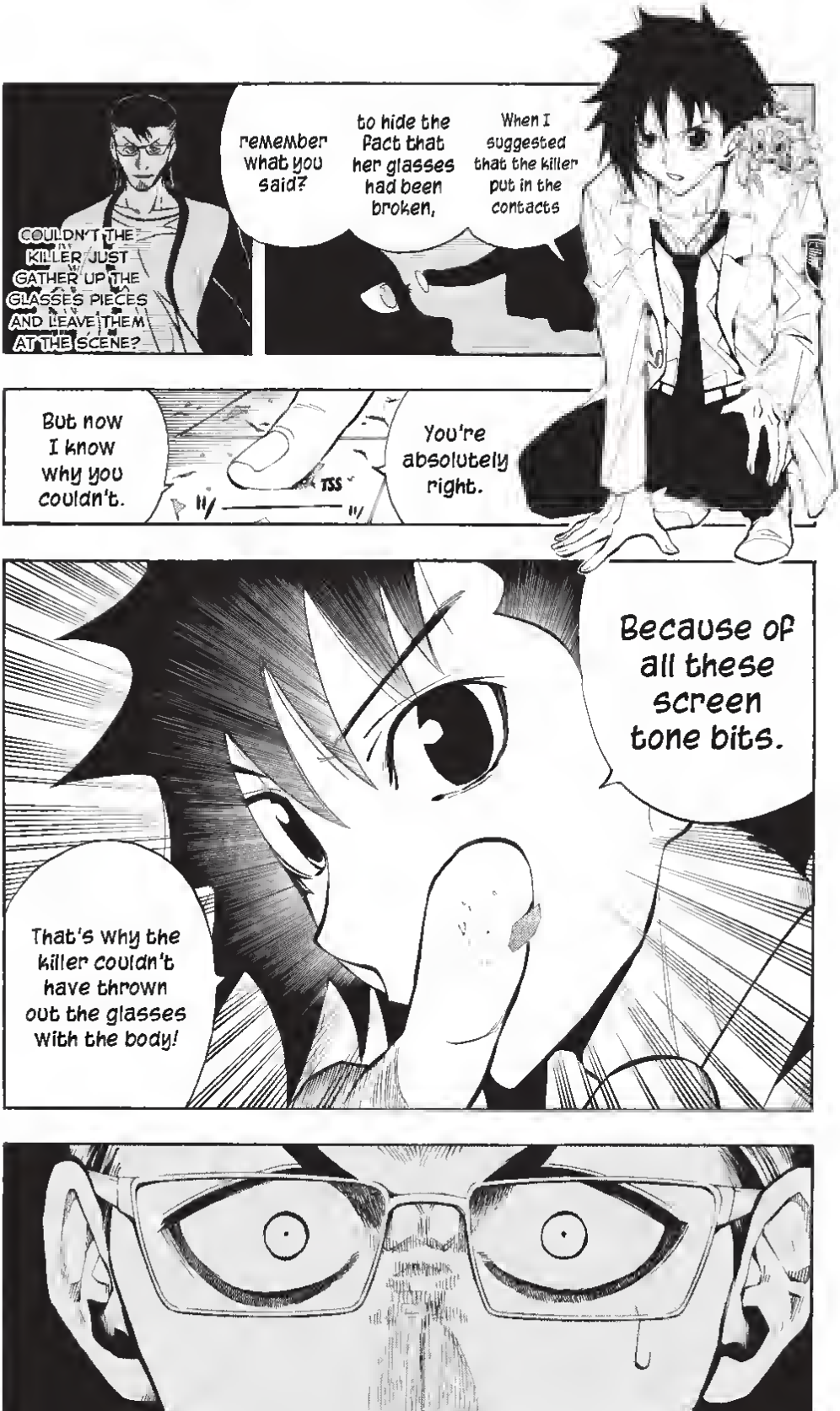
Why didn't you tell us?
Sensei... you were holding it...?

It must have gotten mixed in with mine.
Oh, I, uh...I didn't realize.

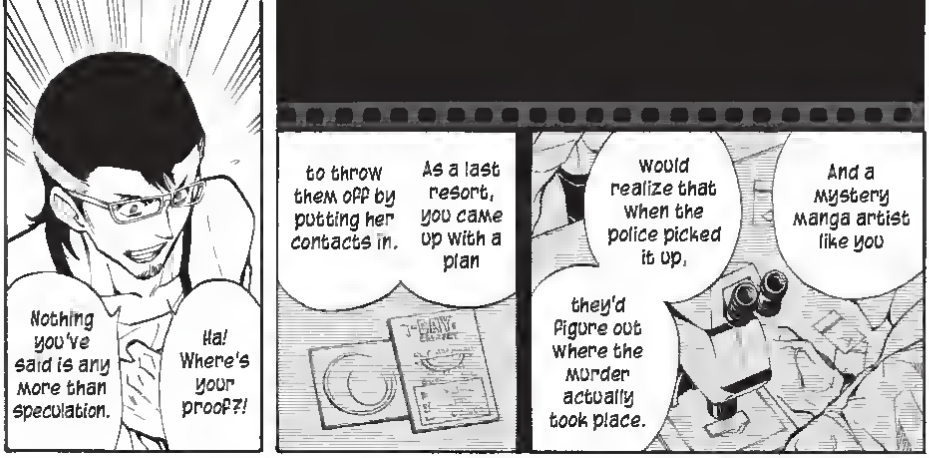

I GUESS THAT'S BETTER THAN LETTING IT GET OUT THAT I STOLE IT. DAMMIT... DAMMIT!!
DAMN DOG! NOW I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CONTACT MY EDITOR AND FORCE HIM TO SCRAP MY MANUSCRIPT!
A-All right, you just take that and go home.
Go home? You must be joking.

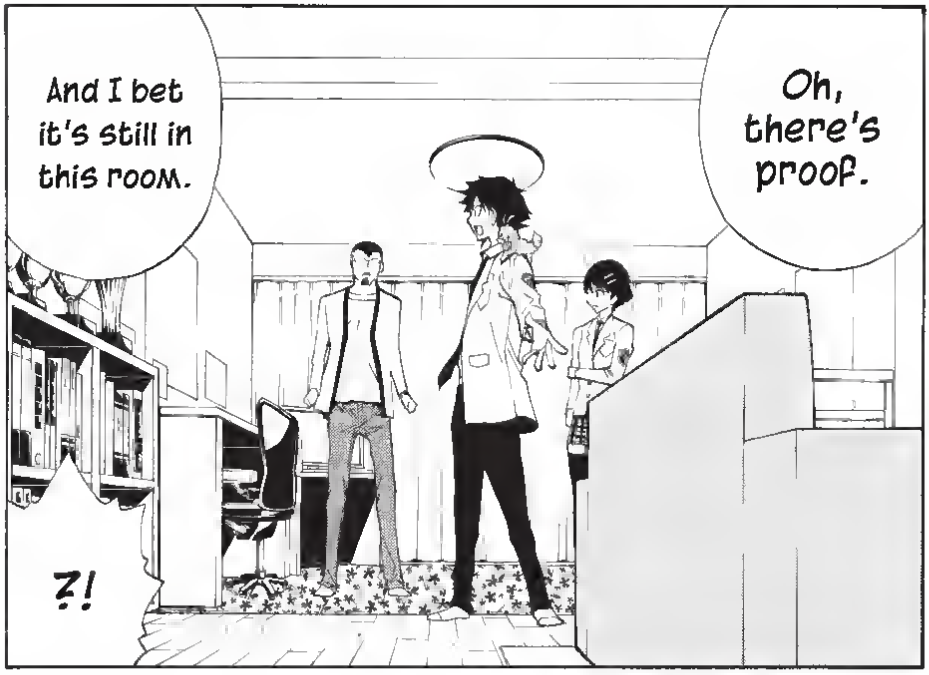
That's quite a temper you've got there.
...
CLACK
"What did you—"
GAH
Are you going to hit me with that?
GASP
That's ridiculous!! One more false accusation and I'll...
Isn't that what happened?
you grabbed the nearest blunt object and hit her on the back of the head?
Is that why, when Asagi confronted you about her manuscript,
It's not a false accusation!

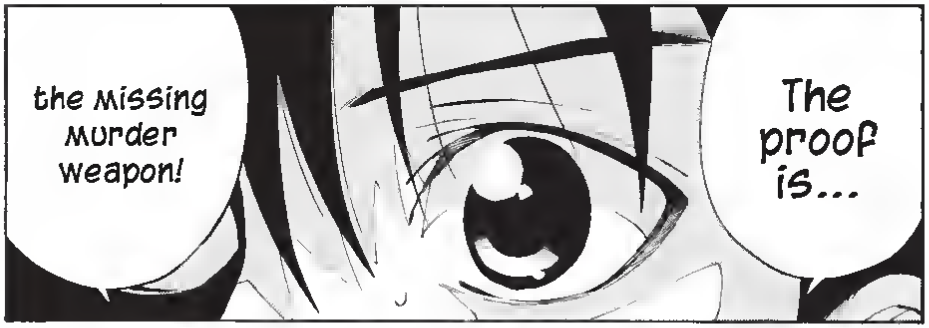
That's why there were no marks on her face,
When you hit Asagi, she fell on the rug.
and why her clothes weren't dirty.
This rug.
You changed it because the other one had Asagi's blood on it. Didn't you?
...
I bet the old one matched the room a lot better.
But you messed up when you left her lying face-up in the alley.
What?
But it just didn't make sense.
That's probably why you left her like that—out of habit.
When you draw the murder scenes in your manga,
you always draw the victims so we can see their faces, like those posters by your front door.


COULDN'T THE KILLER JUST GATHER UP THE GLASSES PIECES AND LEAVE THEM AT THE SCENE?
remember what you said?
to hide the fact that her glasses had been broken,
When I suggested that the killer put in the contacts
But now I know why you couldn't.
TSS
You're absolutely right.
Because of all these screen tone bits.
That's why the killer couldn't have thrown out the glasses with the body!

I remember something that happened on our Middle school class trip.
Oh, man, not again...
What's wrong, Moé?
So in a professional studio, there'd be even more of it sticking to everything!
It was all over Moé, and she was just an amateur.
I thought I'd gotten it all off of me, but there's always some stuck somewhere.
There's a piece of screen tone floating in the water.
That's what she said!
Mixed in with the broken lenses!
When you saw all the tiny bits of screen tone
you must have had a startling realization
When you gathered up all the pieces of her glasses,


Nothing you've said is any more than speculation.
Ha! Where's your proof?!
to throw them off by putting her contacts in.
As a last resort, you came up with a plan
would realize that when the police picked it up,
they'd figure out where the murder actually took place.
And a mystery manga artist like you


And I bet it's still in this room.
Oh, there's proof.
?!


the missing murder weapon!
The proof is...

GASP
The reason they couldn't find the weapon where we found Asagi
Must have been that it would have singled you out as the killer.
But, in that case, you would have gotten rid of it somewhere
While you were out disposing of the body.
But you reacted,
as soon as I mentioned the weapon.
You even started talking about that sock trick.
It was like you were trying really hard to get the focus off of that weapon.
FOR EXAMPLE
YOU COULD FILL A SOCK WITH GRAVEL.
SWOOSH
WHAM
SS
Or maybe it's more than that.
Maybe he can't get rid of it.
Maybe it was...
BRR
BRR
hasn't gotten rid of it.
Maybe he still...
Then it hit me.

THAT'S A PRIZED POSSES-SION!!
DON'T TOUCH THAT!!
I WOULD NEVER HIT SOMEONE WITH SOME-THING SO PRECIOUS!!
An award.
Like this trophy.
Yes... there should be.
If it really killed a girl, there should be some blood on it!!
If you insist on accusing me, then take your story to the police!!
Have them check it with lumino!!

Carefully, thoroughly... so you wouldn't leave a trace...
That's why you were so desperate to wipe it off.
GLARE
and so, even though your other trophies—like that golf trophy—are covered in dust,
this giant manga trophy doesn't have a speck on it.
Until a minute ago, you twitched whenever anyone talked about the weapon.
But now you're saying that we should take this trophy to the police and have them investigate it.
You want to know how I know?
Wha
We don't need to investigate the trophy.
Besides,

Be careful, Watson!
If you don't keep your voice calm, he'll lose his temper.
you only just wiped it down!!
Which means
BAH
BAM
Aha. That dirty rag in the washing machine...

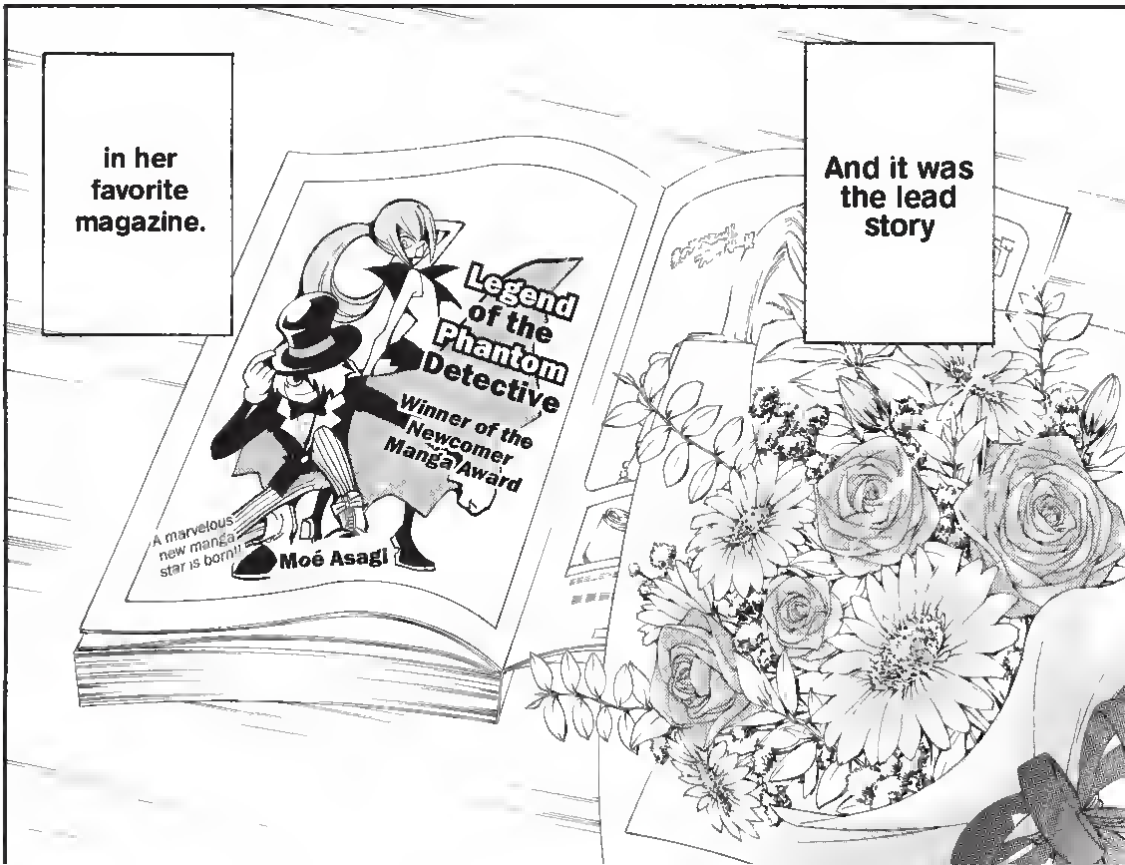
do you think the police will find Asagi's blood on it?

WHAT
VHAM
THMP
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?!
SNAP
Takeru!!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW...
WHOOSH
Watson!!
BLAM

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
I didn't Mean to be late.
...Sorry, Takeru.
You're under arrest!!
FLOP
CLUNK
Manga artist Ryūnosuke Shiratori
you're charged with the murder of your assistant Moé Asagi.

...Thanks, but... it won't bring Asagi back.
...
No it won't...
But well done.
...That was reckless, Watson.
...
Don't be stupid. The first shot was a blank.
Sis, did you have to fire that in the building?
What?
I don't know about that, Miki.
Moé's dream...will never come true.
...
There's something we can do.
Huh...?

Miki and I submitted Asagi's last manuscript for her.
It won the new artist award.
A marvelous new manga star is born!!
Moé Asagi


in her favorite magazine.
Legend of the Phantom Detective
Winner of the Newcomer Manga Award
A marvelous new manga star is born!!
Moé Asagi
And it was the lead story

SHERLOCK BONES
The incident brought about some small changes between the two of us and my dog.
Mystery Manga Writer Ryūnosuke Shiratori
Murdered Moé Asagi, a friend of mine and Miki's from middle school.
And...
I told Miki who he reaiiy was.
And for a whiie, he had become a normal dog.
Sherdog suddenly lost consciousness.
Inside me, too.
Something changed

Case 6: ⚜ The Lethal Left Hand, Part 1

And what are we doing up so early? It's six-thirty
We don't have a choice if we want to watch the construction.
We have to get there before they get into the real work.
Subway
London Station
SHH
Wow.
That weather forecast could not have been more wrong.
We're both soaking wet.
How can you, the reincernetion of an Englishman, not remember such a fact about your homeland?
You are utterly pathetic, Watson.
How would I remember?
GGH
Anyway, we're getting on a train. You have to hide.
Mrk! How humiliating.
ZIIP
What? You know about subways, Sherdog?
Naturally.
The world's first underground railway was opened in my hometown of London.
Huh, okay.
Didn't you know that?
POP
HMMM.
So this is a 21st century Japanese underground railway. Modern, as expected.

It just doesn't feel real...
Ha ha.
Are you really talking to him, Takeru?
...
Well, I guess it wouldn't.
...
You're a crook!!
I'll sue!!
SHATTER
SLAP
You think I'm so stupid?
You think I can't tell you lied to me?
BAH
Whoa, there... just calm down.

PERK
HM...
Dammit, let go..
No!
A man and a woman, fighting...
RRRING
And it sounded like someone hit something...
What were those voices just now?
RIP
RIP
RIP
Train arriving on Line 2.
!
WHUMP

...
Hoh...?
SKREEE
K...
BAH
Kyaaaaa!
ZSH
THP

What just happened?
An accident.
Ugh...I think she's dead...
Oh, wow, do you think it was suicide?
No, Watson! This was Murder!
Huh?
TMP
Come with me!!
Huh? What... what's going on?
Get in the opposite car, Watson!!
Just go!!
O... okay.
What?
Sherdog says it was murder!
It could be dangerous— you wait here!
Doors closing.

I saw it.
!
PSHH
SHUT
What...what's going on, Shedog?
I didn't see what he looked like, but I saw a man's hand
...I don't know what he looked like.
Wha—?!
He pushed the victim!!
Ergo...
B-DMP...
B-DMP...
The victim was standing at a newsstand.
There weren't any other people on the platform behind it.
And I didn't see anyone at the exit.
B-DMP...

Workers
Girl receives transplant
Everyone on the platform got on this train.
Including the killer.

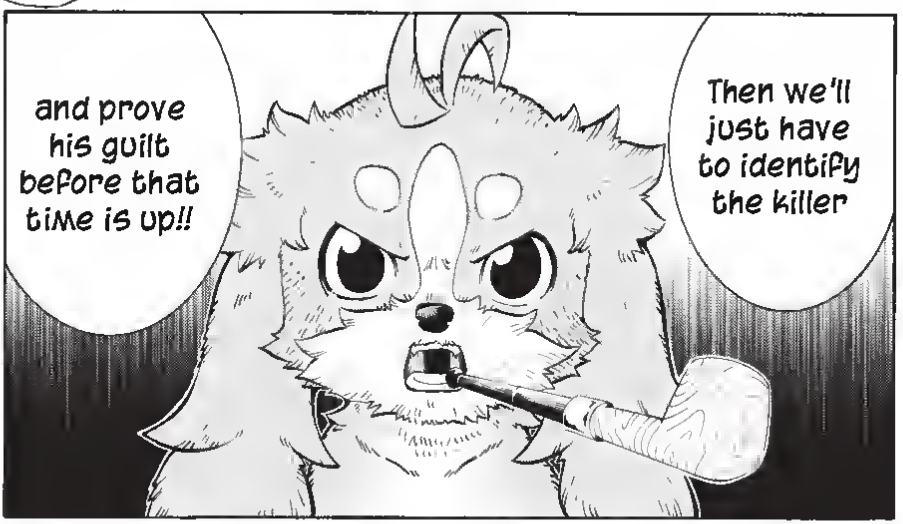
Our suspect
is one of these three gentlemen.
Excluding ourselves, there are six passengers here.
Three of them are women.
...Which means...

GRR
No. The incident happened near the edge of the platform
judging from the location, he must have boarded the first car.
PSST..
...Couldn't he be on the next car?

HOLLAND STATION IN 8 MINUTES
There's still only eight minutes

...So what do we do, Sherdog?
This is an express, but...

before the next stop.

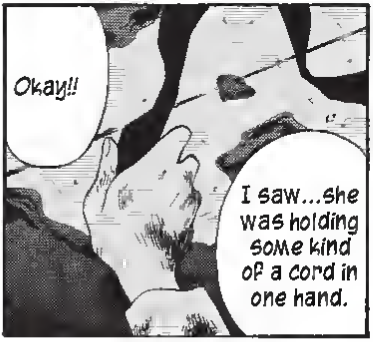

and prove his guilt before that time is up!!
Then we'll just have to identify the killer

If we miss our chance and he disembarks,
he might get away without ever being linked to the crime.
!

I told them I saw someone push her...
Hello, Takeru? The station attendants just called the police.

You're not going to just ask them for a confession, are you, Watson?
Okay, then we'll just question them one at a time...

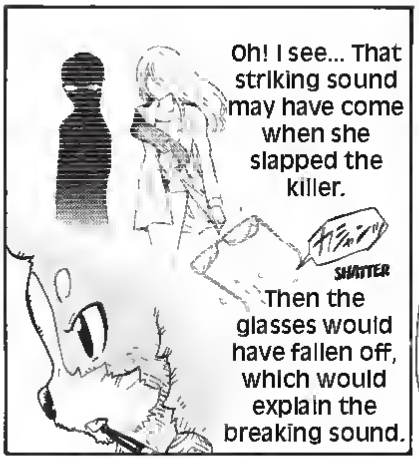
Oh! It's Miki!
N-no...I was just joking!


Okay!!
I saw...she was holding some kind of a cord in one hand.

Is there anything else I can do?
Is that okay?
Ask her about the victim, Watson.
Yeah, Miki! Thanks!

One man
is playing on his smart phone with his left hand.
One man
has an injured right arm.
And the other man
...is he right or left-handed?
KA-CLUNK...
KA-CLUNK...
We need to know the dominant hand of each of our suspects.
...
The woman was pushed by a left hand,
Meaning the killer was either left-handed, or couldn't use his right hand for some reason.
And I am certain he was wearing a beige coat.
Sherdog.

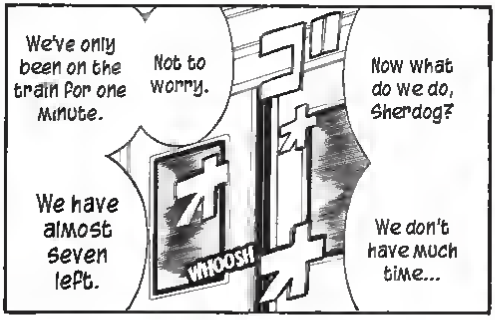
I see.
KA-CLUNK
KA-CLUNK
We know what the victim was holding.
I heard this from the woman running the kiosk.
Wait! There's more.
Just in case, I got a station attendant to help me check it out.
And...
Let me think...at least half an hour.
They were right behind my stand.
It was scary.
This couple just kept arguing and arguing.
...I was surprised to hear such loud voices so early in the morning.
Kept arguing? For about how long?


Oh! I see... That striking sound may have come when she slapped the killer.
SHATTER
Then the glasses would have fallen off, which would explain the breaking sound.

I saw bits of glass on the ground.
I think they were from someone's glasses.

I hope that helps.
BOOP
AHF
Thanks, Miki! Sherdog says thanks, too!
It certainly does!

GLANCE

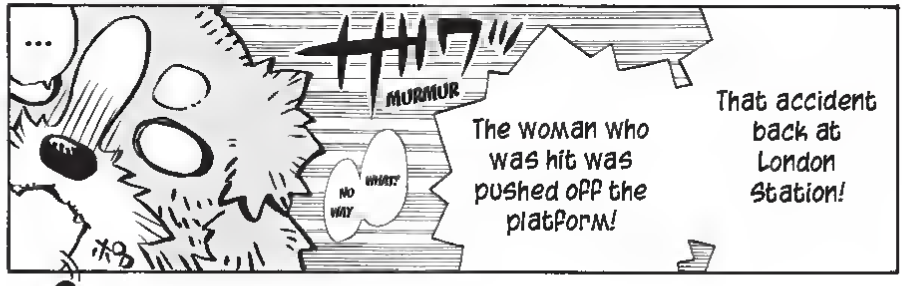

We've only been on the train for one minute.
Not to worry.
We have almost seven left.
WHOOSH
Now what do we do, Sherdog?
We don't have much time...

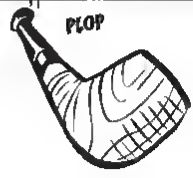
You're welcome!
?
YAY!

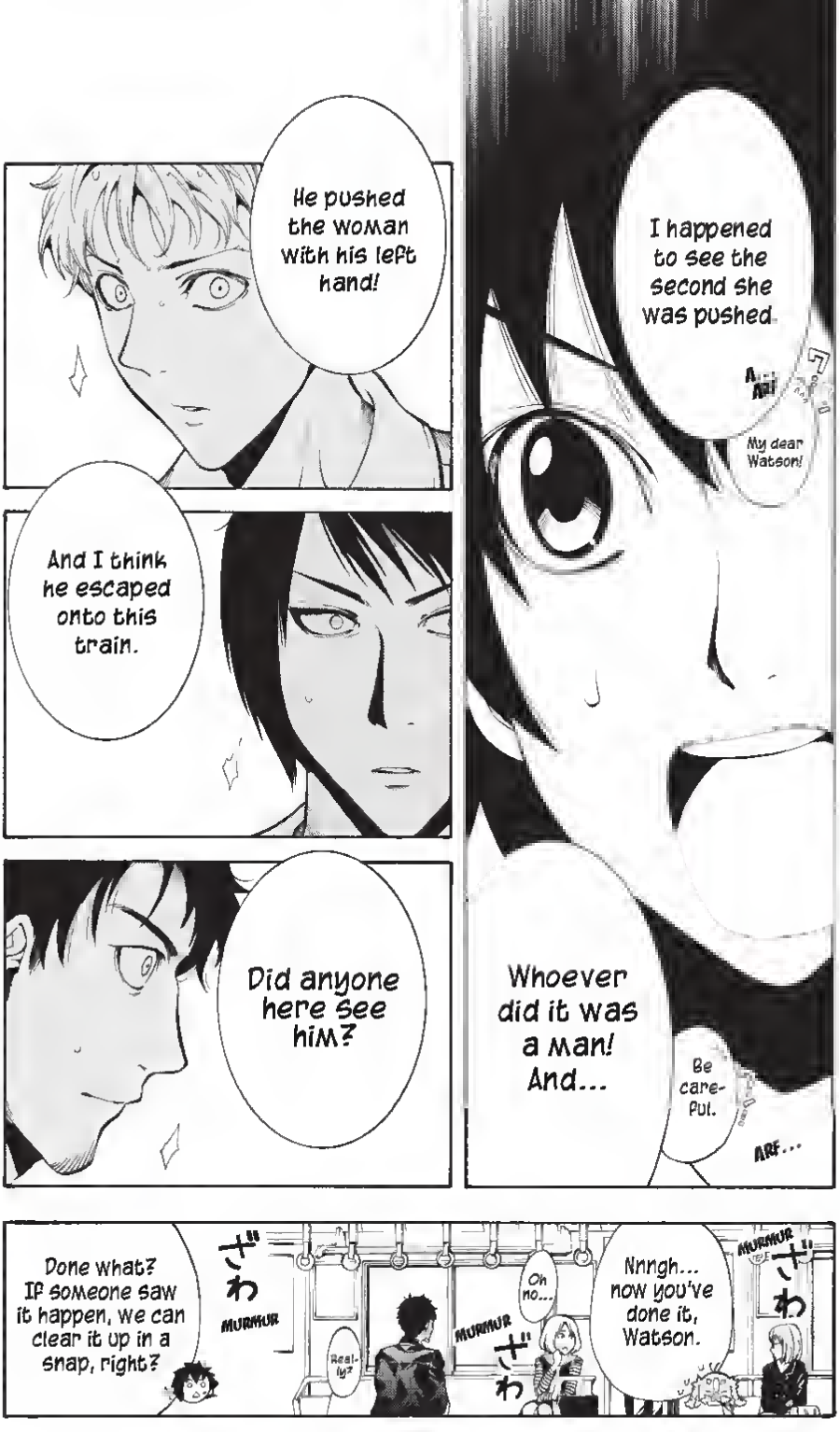
A man in his late thirties.
His right arm is in a sling, his hair isn't wet, but his feet are. His coat is folded...and of course, it's on the beige side as well.
A man in his early thirties.
He's carrying a beigish coat in his arm, and I haven't determined his dominant hand... His hair is dry.
A man in his twenties.
He's wearing a short beige coat, his hair is wet, and he's using his smart phone with his left hand.
I've been thinking...
I realized how useless I am without you. I felt like such a loser...
When you were just an ordinary dog,
Hey, Sherdog.
Yes, Watson?

He was hardworking and quick to action, with a strong sense of responsibility.
Now there's the Watson I remember.
...I see.

Excuse Me!!
So I'm going to do whatever I can!!
But I'll just have to say it's the thought that counts, and take care of this my...
?!


...
MURMUR
NO WAY
WHAT?
The woman who was hit was pushed off the platform!
That accident back at London Station!

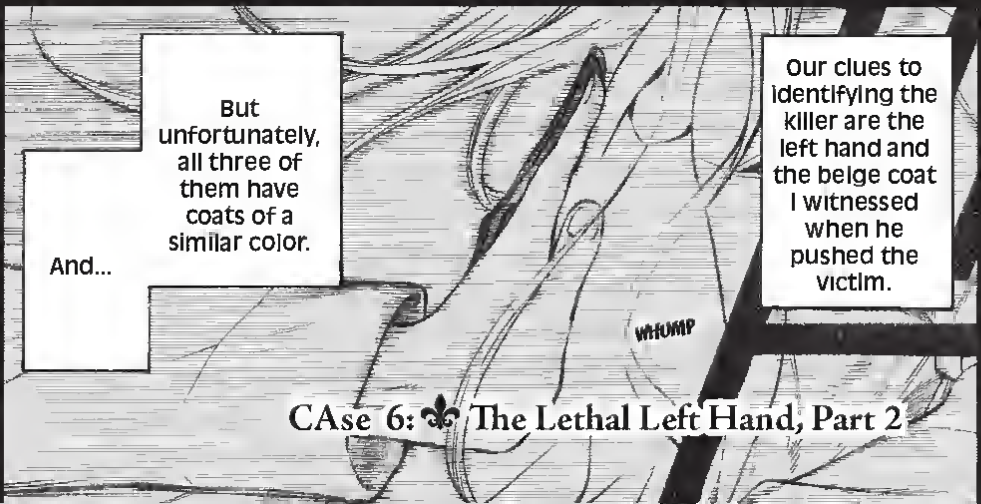

PLOP


He pushed the woman with his left hand!
I happened to see the second she was pushed.
Ah... Ah!
My dear Watson!
And I think he escaped onto this train.
Did anyone here see him?
Whoever did it was a man! And...
Be careful.
Arf...
Done what? If someone saw it happen, we can clear it up in a snap, right?
MURMUR
Really?
Oh no...
Nnngh... now you've done it, Watson.

Whoa, wait a second!
S... sorry.
YOU'VE GIVEN UP ALL THE INFORMATION I HAD. NOW WHAT?
THE DOMINANT HAND WAS MY SECRET WEAPON.
RUMBLE RUMBLE
Uh...oh yeah.
If anyone had seen it, they would have spoken up by now.
ZOOP
...I just can't really use my right hand at the moment.
I'M right-handed, too.
I'M right-handed.
Well, I'M not a suspect.
Don't tell me you're going to accuse me of pushing her for that?
I'M left-handed.
ヒ°
TERK
ワ...!

Yes...don't you have a saying in Japan?
Huh? R... really?
...Watson. Your indiscretion may have actually given us a shortcut to solving this case.
HEH HEH HEH...
777...
GOOD FORTUNE CAN COME WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT!!
THIS IS A HORSE COMING OUT OF A GOURD!
DUN
Is definitely one of these three men!!
KA-CLUNK
KA-CLUNK
KA-CLUNK
KA-CLUNK
HOLLAND STATION IN 6 MINUTES
The killer...

SHERLOCK BONES
A man in his early thirties.
He's carrying a coat in his arm, and his hair is dry.
His hair is wet, and he's using his smart phone with his left hand.
A man in his twenties.
His hair isn't wet, but there's a puddle at his feet.
His right arm is in a sling;
A man in his late thirties.


Our clues to identifying the killer are the left hand and the beige coat I witnessed when he pushed the victim.
WHUMP
But unfortunately, all three of them have coats of a similar color.
And...

CAse 6: The Lethal Left Hand, Part 2

You said my indiscretion made us a shortcut.
What do you mean, Sherdog?
KA-CLUNK
We only have six minutes to solve the crime.
HOLLAND STATION IN 6 MINUTES
We must trap our villain before he disembarks at the next station.
KA-CLUNK

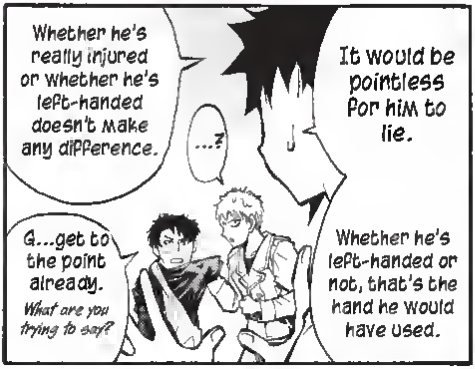
is very likely lying.
One of those three men
WHOEVER DID IT WAS A MAN! AND...
HE PUSHED THE WOMAN WITH HIS LEFT HAND!
Remember what you just said, Watson?
Quite so.
What? Lying?
took turns defending themselves.
our three suspects
Uh, yeah, and you kinda got mad at me for doing it.
Right after that,

You just accused three people of murder.
So quit playing with your dog!
Hey, what is up with you?
Oh, of course!
You understand, then?
But...
Then it's time to expose his lies
and reveal him for the criminal he is!
Okay!
Get him, Watson!!
ZSH!

But!
Of course you can't.
We can't identify the criminal just based on which hand he used.
So, about you're being left-handed.
MURMUR
If there's someone who is actually left-handed, but is lying...
Don't you think it's pretty likely that he's the one who pushed the woman?
Y...you're awfully observant...
And you've been playing with your phone all this time, so I could see you really are left-handed.
...In that case...
GASP
Considering who's most likely to be lying, the first person I can rule out
would be you— you admitted you were left-handed before I even asked.
WHEW
Well, yeah... of course.

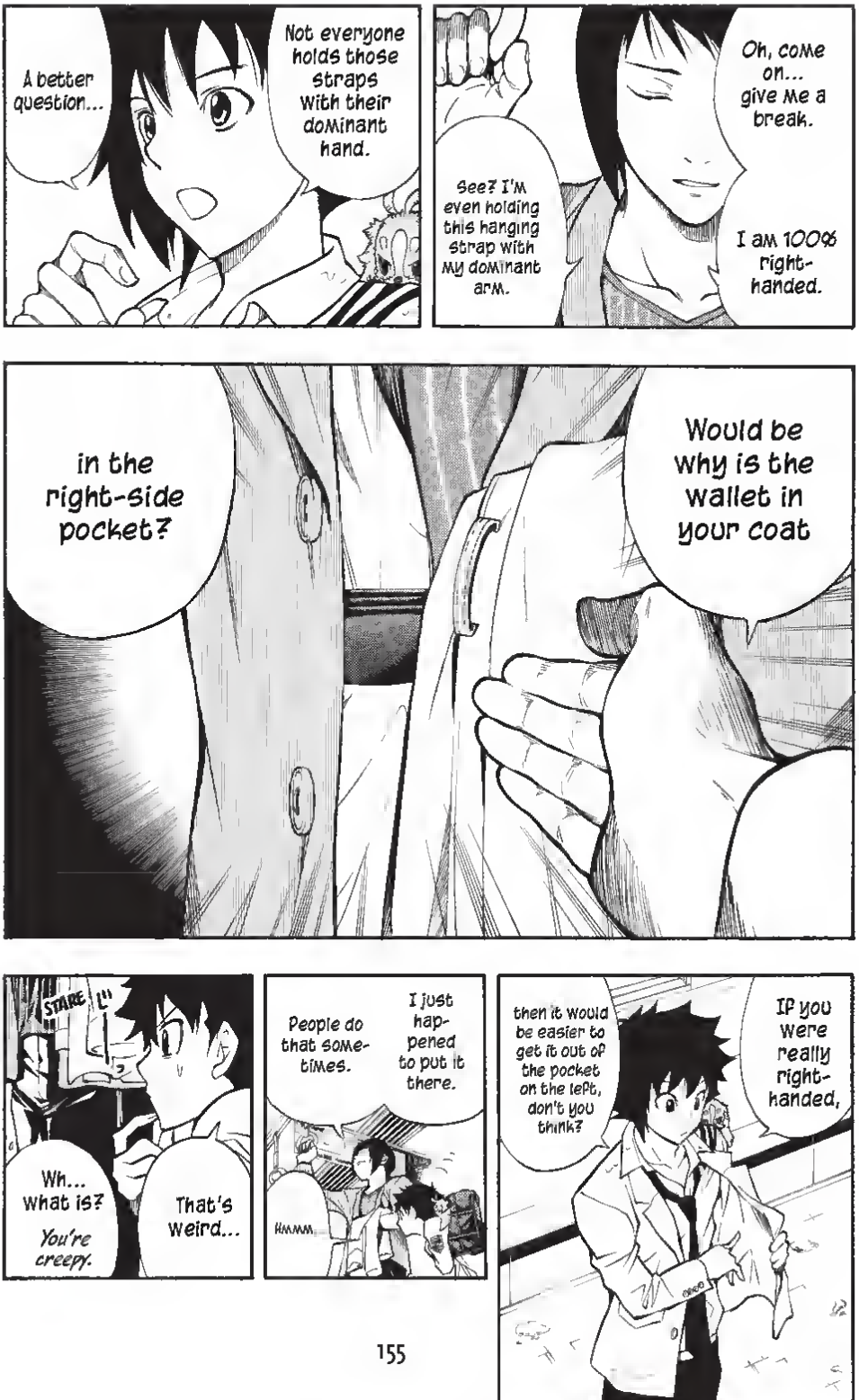
I bet you're actually left-handed!
Wh-What? That's crazy!
N-no, that's not what I meant!

I bet it was that guy!!
Huh?
You think you can fool us 'cause your right hand's in a sling?

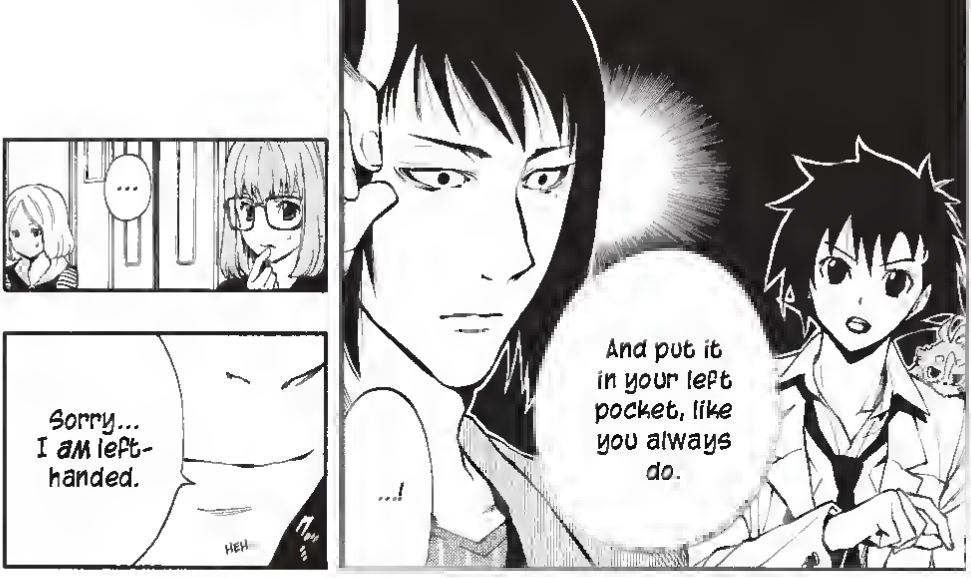

Whether he's really injured or whether he's left-handed doesn't make any difference.
...?
It would be pointless for him to lie.
G...get to the point already.
What are you trying to say?
Whether he's left-handed or not, that's the hand he would have used.

What about
you?

The point is, you're not lying either.
And so...


A better question...
Not everyone holds those straps with their dominant hand.
Oh, come on... give me a break.
See? I'M even holding this hanging strap with my dominant arm.
I am 100% right-handed.
in the right-side pocket?
Would be why is the wallet in your coat
STARE
Wh... What is?
You're creepy.
That's Weird...
People do that sometimes.
I just happened to put it there.
Hmmm
then it would be easier to get it out of the pocket on the left, don't you think?
If you were really right-handed,

There's a phone strap.
Nothing's in the right-side pocket.
Your pants pocket.
...
But look at the left side!
But...you gave in to your old habit.
And when you put your phone away, you took it in your left hand.
the first thing you did was lie and say you were right-handed.
When I said I saw the incident, and that the killer was left-handed,
And then you kept fiddling with your phone with your right hand.
one way for right-handers, and another way for left-handers.
Some things are just more comfortable
But old habits are hard to break.


...
Sorry... I am left-handed.
HEH
...!
And put it in your left pocket, like you always do.

That makes sense...but there's one other thing.
I just didn't want to end up being accused of something I didn't do... y'know?
But I don't think it's fair to convict someone of murder just because he's left-handed.

So why are you standing there, holding a strap, when you could sit?
This car is practically empty.

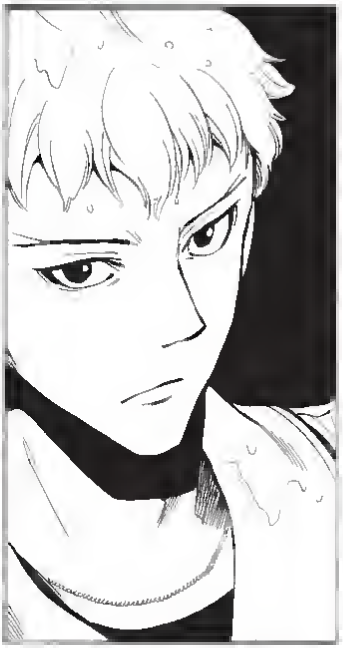
GLANCE
...It's for my health.
Just who are you, anyway?
There are plenty of seats, and carrying that coat...
it's a little weird.
A couple minutes ago,
I got a call from my friend who's still on the platform.
She said there was some broken glass
on the ground where it happened.
And apparently people heard arguing
SLAP
Followed by the sound of a slap.
Is that when you
lost your glasses?
Is that why, when you were looking at your phone,
you had it so close to your face?

Without your glasses
you can't see it unless you hold it up close. Right?
There was only broken glass on the platform, no glasses.
You probably hurried to pick them up,
so they wouldn't trace them to you based on their brand.
But since you were holding your coat in your arms, it was hard to get them in your pocket.
So your best option
was to put them in the back pocket of your pants.
You had a big wallet in your inside right pocket.
And your smart phone taking up room in your left pants pocket.

that I'd seen someone push the woman off the platform.
A second later, I came in and shouted
you chose to stand up—you couldn't sit.
That's why, even with all these seats,
out of your pocket and put them in your coat or your bag.
So there was no way you could take the glasses
...Okay.
How about this then?
But is that enough to call me a killer?
...
Okay, yes. I dropped my glasses on the platform and broke them.
Five min-utes...
I don't know... five minutes?
So how long were you waiting on the station platform?
she said she heard a man and a woman arguing for half an hour.
When my friend asked the woman at the kiosk,

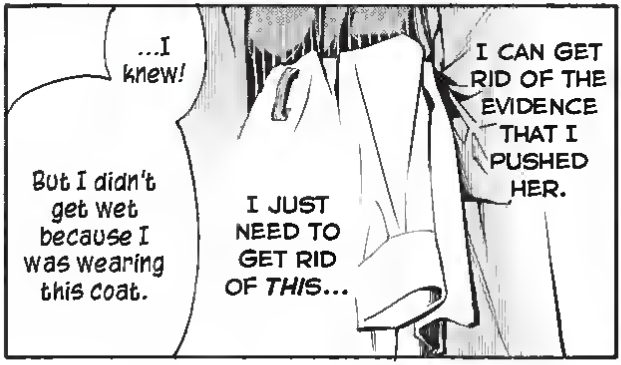
Anyone can tell by looking at you.
That's not true.
There's no way it was only five minutes.
Yeah, he's lying.

...Can you see why?



You were at the platform the whole time—that's why you didn't know about the rain.
That station isn't connected to anything else.
Subway London Station
And you don't have an umbrella, so there's no way you made it to the platform without getting rained on.
If you made it to the platform five minutes ago,
you would be soaking wet from the downpour outside.
...!

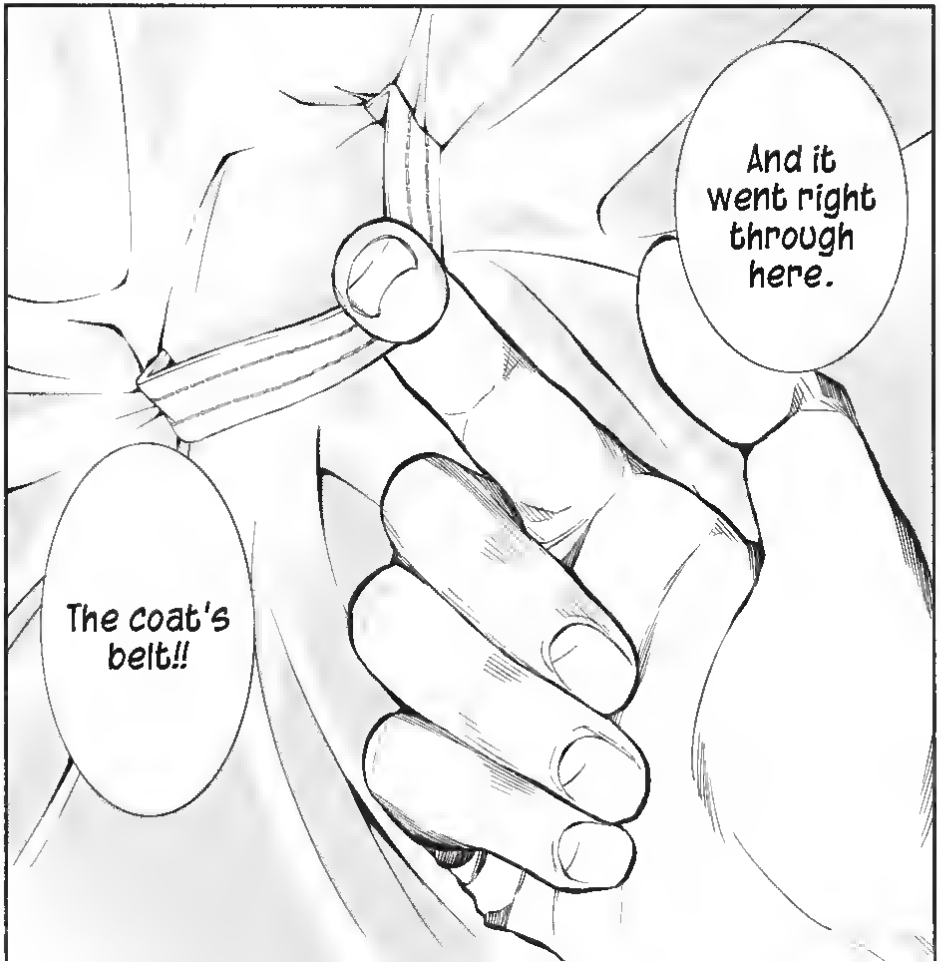
GLANCE
BUT...
DAMMIT... THIS IS BAD.


...I knew!
But I didn't get wet because I was wearing this coat.
I JUST NEED TO GET RID OF THIS...
I CAN GET RID OF THE EVIDENCE THAT I PUSHED HER.

HOLLAND STATION IN 2 MINUTES
IF I CAN JUST HOLD HIM OFF UNTIL THEN...
WE'LL BE AT THE NEXT STATION IN TWO MINUTES.

!!
It's all up to you now!!
GULP
I've thrown it away now.
And I kept the rain off my head with a newspaper.
He's giving just the excuses I anticipated, Watson.
GRR
We have two minutes!!
IN 2 M
This is our chance... one more push and we'll have him!
It's very water repellant— it's already dry!
ZSH
I bet it's soaked through from the rain.
Then can I have a look at that coat?
You're treating me like a criminal without any proof! I'll sue you for defamation!!
You don't need to!
Then let me see it!
HOLLAND STATION IN 1 MINUTES
Should I tell you?
...Holland Station in 1 minute...

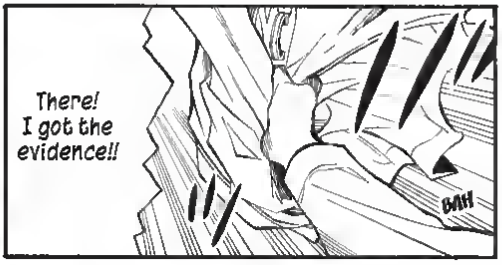
That coat
is missing something it had eight minutes ago!
GAH!
Wh... What are you—


And it went right through here.
The coat's belt!!

When you were fighting,
she grabbed your belt.
My friend back on the platform told me.
The woman who got hit by that train
was holding a coat belt!
That's when you pushed her,
and that's why she still had it.
WHAM
Wah!
!
GAAH
Holland Station! Now arriving at Holland Station!

Oh no you don't!
Hey! Grab him!!

I...I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL HER...
I JUST... SNAPPED... AND I PUSHED HER.
TH... THEN THE TRAIN...


There! I got the evidence!!
BAH

Uh...
Y-yes. Thank you very much.
Now we just have to give this to the police, right?

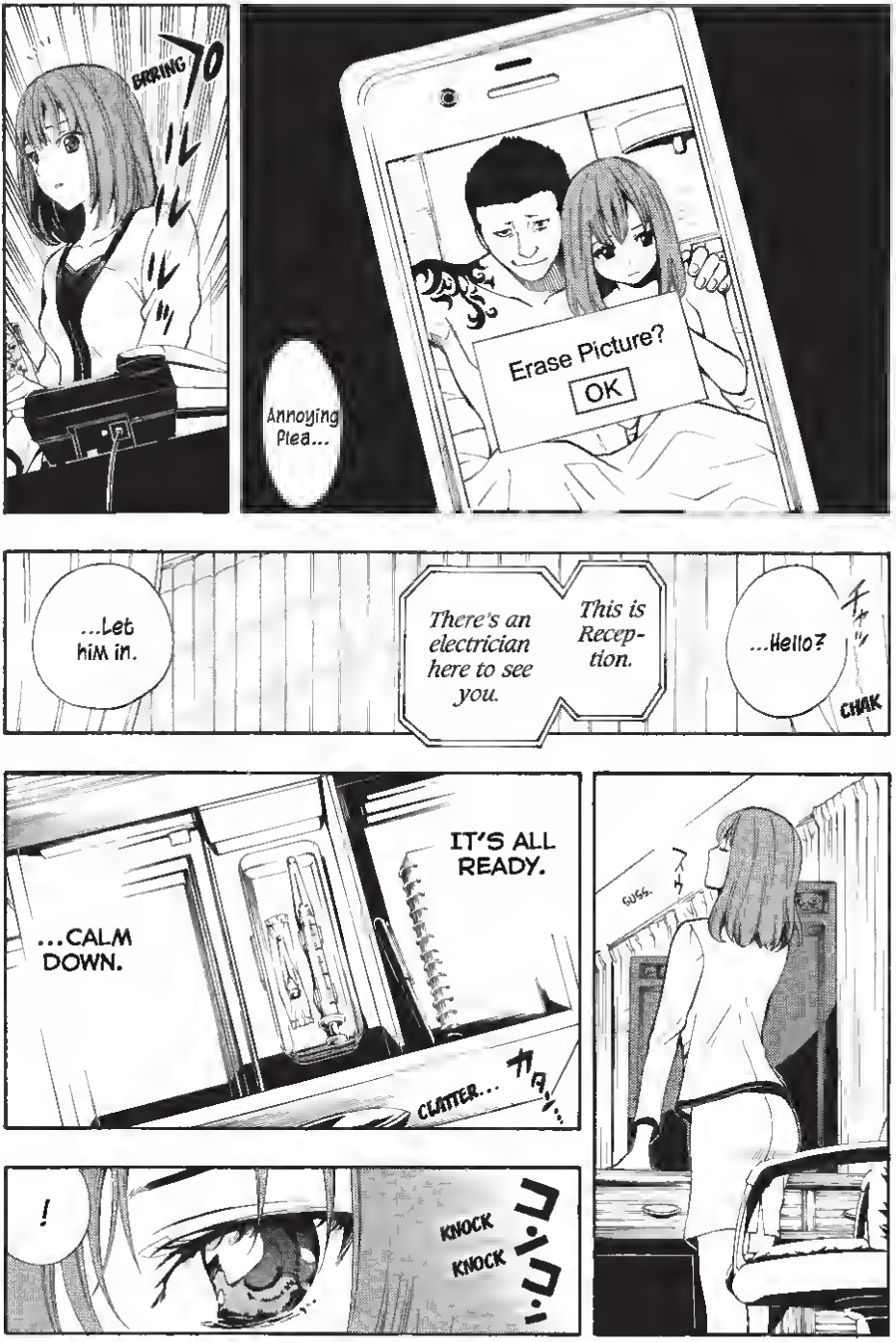
...
So hey, Sherdog.
...
Yes?
Well done, Watson.
Yeah...
You had me a little worried, though.
You were amazing!
Oh...it's nothing...
But that doesn't bring the dead back...I mean, of course it doesn't.
after it's been committed, right?
A detective solves a murder...
...
Of course I did.
Did you ever feel...you know...
This... emptiness?
When you were a detective a hundred years ago, Sherdog,

But the victims could not rest in peace
Without detectives.
A clergyman prays for the souls of the dead.
But a detective
fights for them.
!
One hundred years ago, I believed
that I was in the work of saving souls.
Of course, I still believe that today.
But now
you're a dog.
CLANG
So?!
...

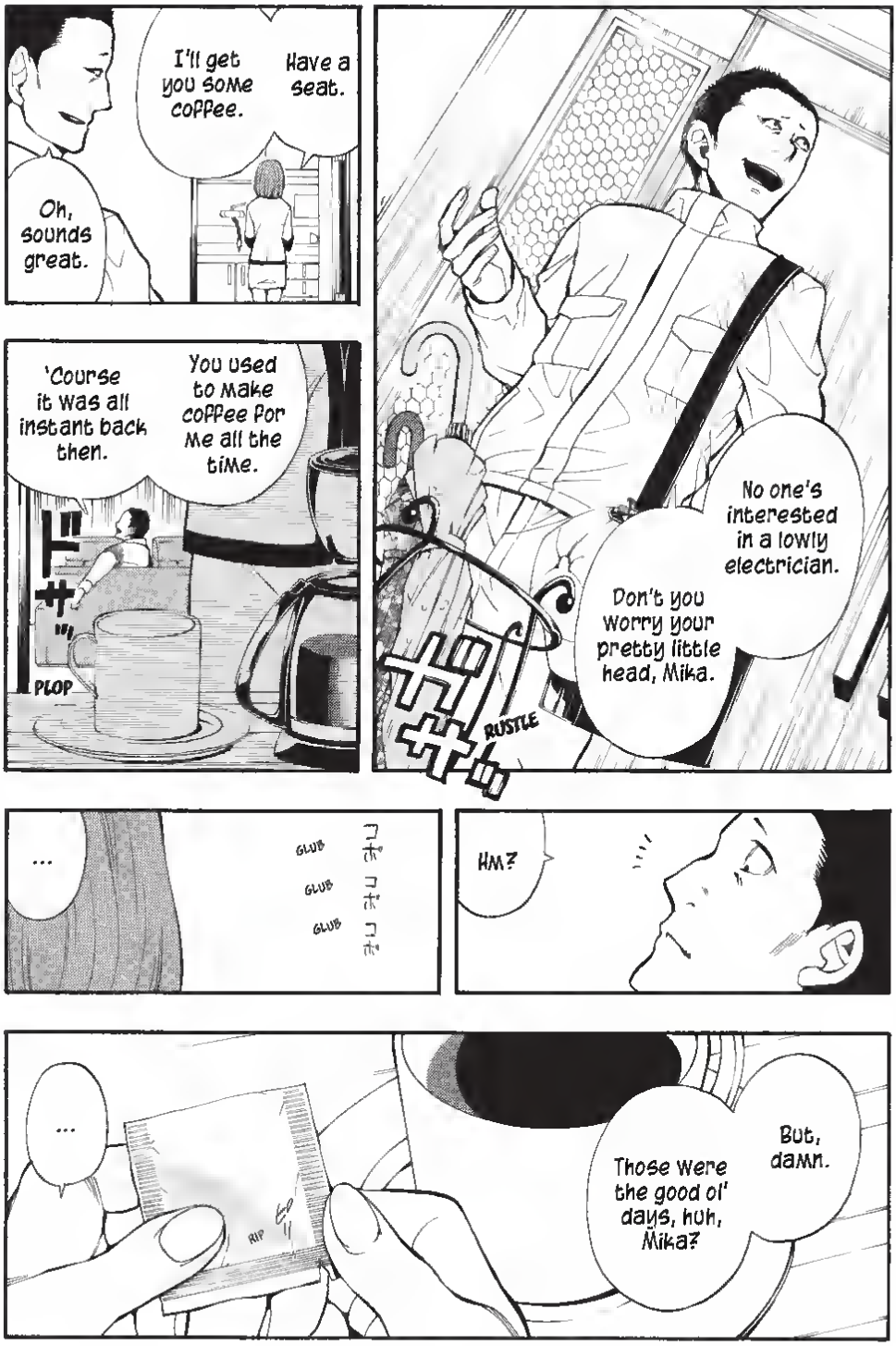
Takeru! We've got a scoop!
Aww, man, what a pain. (Actually happy.)

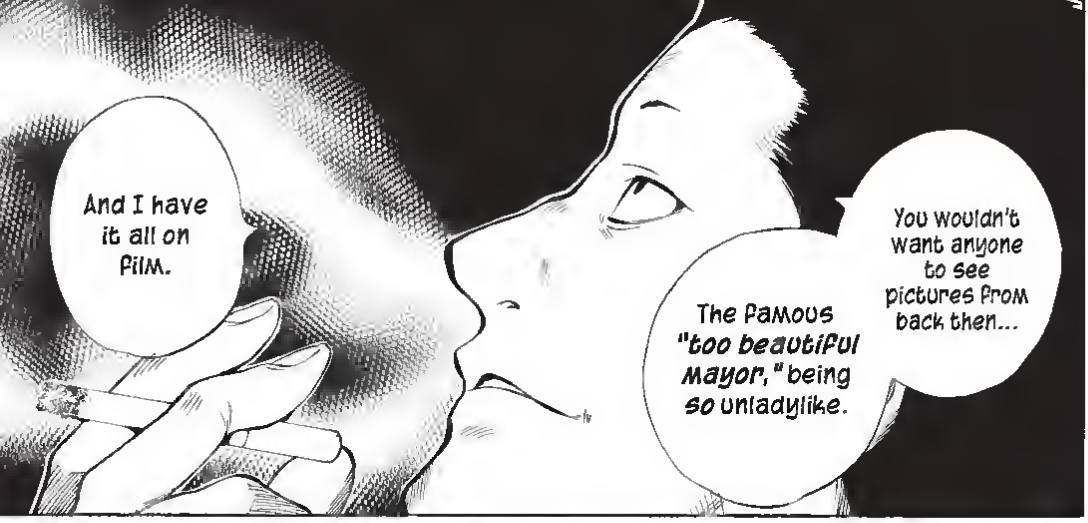
SHERLOCK
BONES

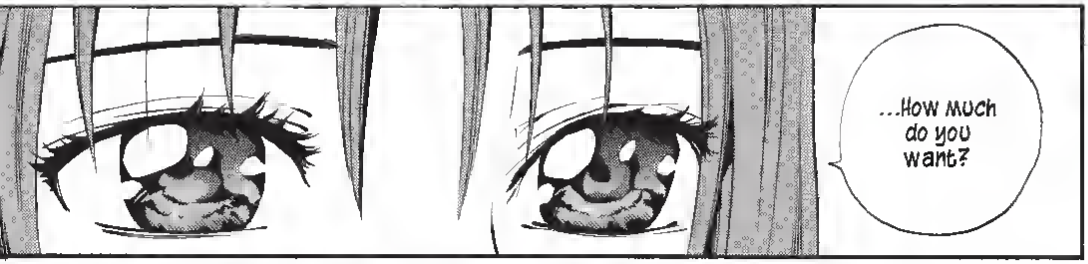
Case 7 ⚜ Hidden from the Press, Part 1

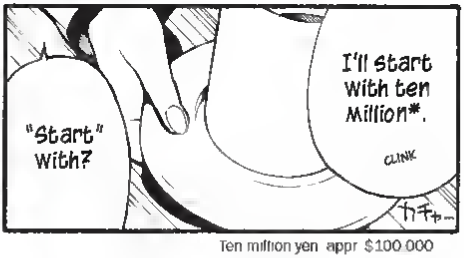

BRRING
Erase Picture?
OK
Annoying Plea...
...Let him in.
There's an electrician here to see you.
This is Reception.
...Hello?
CHAK
...CALM DOWN.
IT'S ALL READY.
CLATTER...
GUSS.
!
KNOCK KNOCK
コンコン

!
CHAK...
...Come in.
...
Heh heh.
WHUM
Especially not your face?
...And no one saw you?
Nope.
Miss "Too Beautiful Mayor."
Ha ha.
I've come to fix your wiring.


I'll get you some coffee.
Have a seat.
Oh, sounds great.
'Course it was all instant back then.
You used to make coffee for me all the time.
PLOP
No one's interested in a lowly electrician.
Don't you worry your pretty little head, Mika.
RUSTLE
...
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
HM?
...
RIP
Those were the good ol' days, huh, Mika?
But, damn.

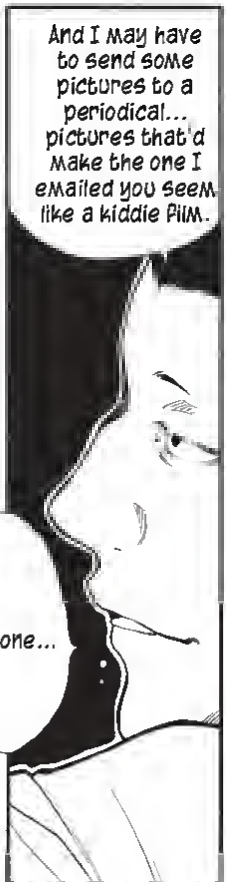

You wouldn't want anyone to see pictures from back then...
The famous "too beautiful mayor," being so unladylike.
And I have it all on film.





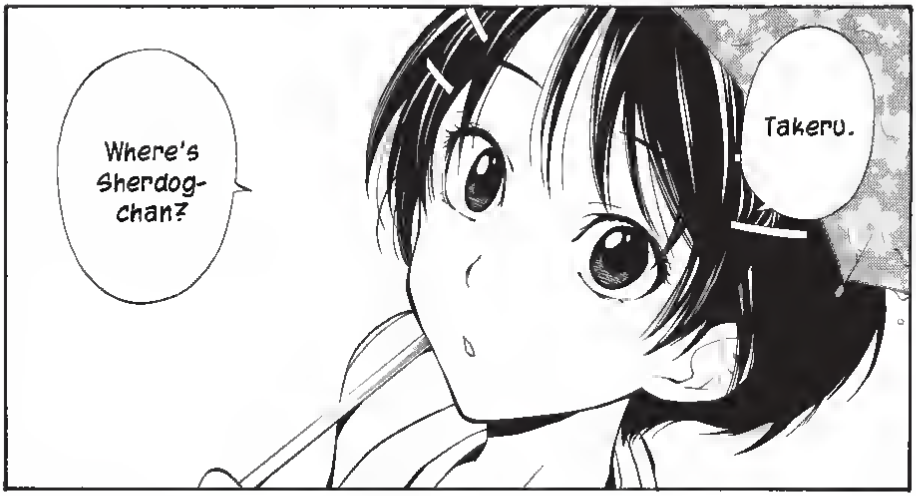
Ten million yen appr $100,000

It's not that much.
Considering your salary and all the bribes you're taking from different tradesmen here and there.
It's chump change.

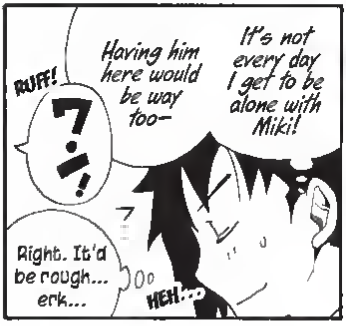

And I may have to send some pictures to a periodical... pictures that'd make the one I emailed you seem like a kiddie film.
Everyone...

HUFF
DID YOU...
SWOON
HUFF
WH... WHAT...
HUFF
HUFF
PUT IN... COFFEE...
SLUMP
CRASH
WH... AT...?
WILL KNOW
SWOON...
WHAT KIND OF DIRTY... THINGS...
YOU'VE
ZSHH
RUSTLE
SCRUB
SCRUB

I have to hurry.
...


Where's Sherdog-chan?
Takeru.

I figured I couldn't really bring a dog along.
Oh.
Since we're going to interview the mayor for the school paper today,
Oh...yeah, that's true.

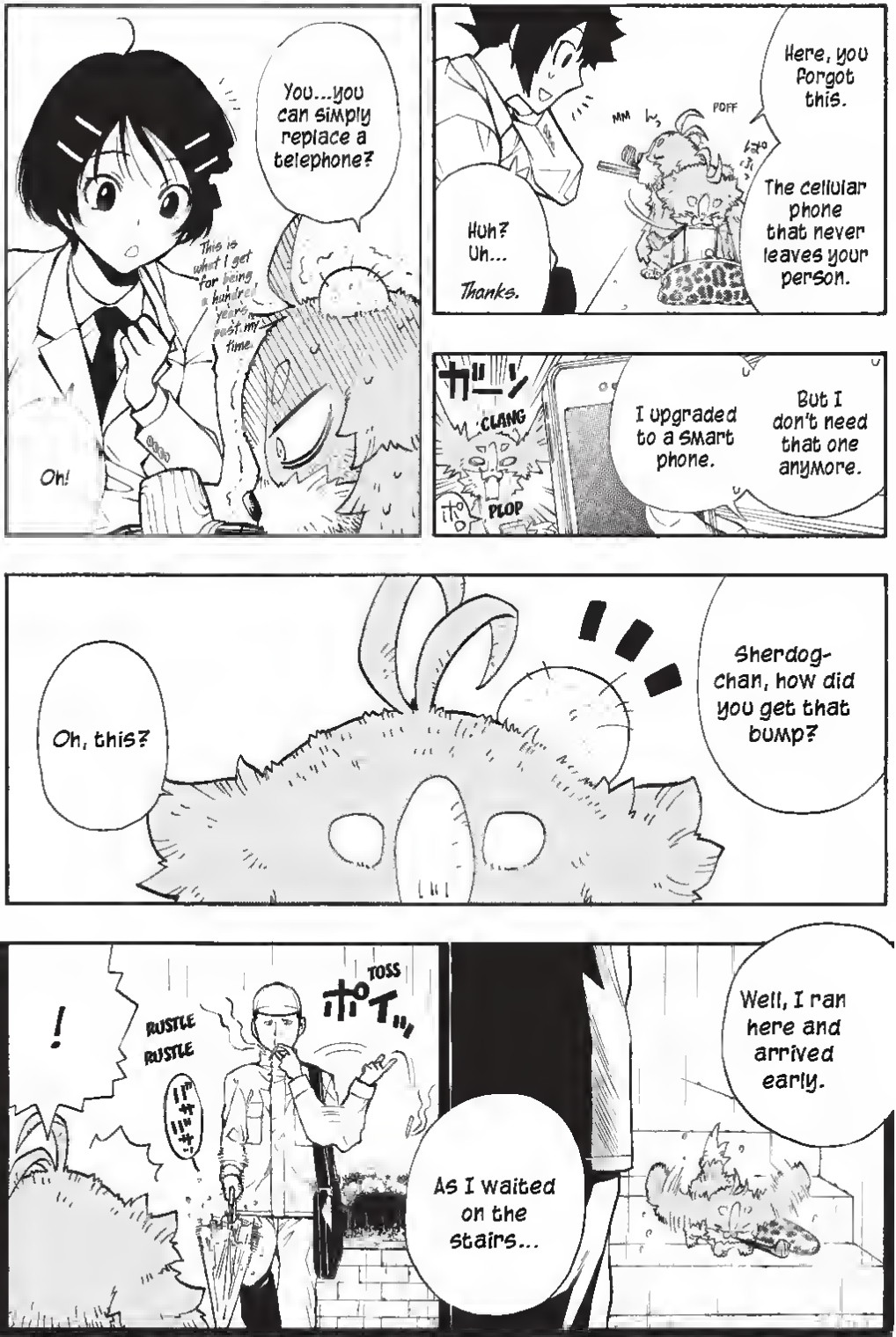

RUFF!
?!
Having him here would be way too—
It's not every day I get to be alone with Miki!
Right. It'd be rough... erk...
HEH...

He may be smart, but he's a dirty old man. Seriously.
But I feel kind of bad for him. He's such a smart dog...
I'm not even kidding.

What took you, Watson!!
はっはっはっ
HEFF HEFF HEFF
Ugh! Sherdog!!
"Ugh"? What did I do to deserve that?
HMPH!
Wh...What are you doing here?
And how did you get here ahead of me?
LONDON CITY HALL
In my homeland, we've always had queens, but by now we've even had female prime ministers... Mutter mutter.
And did you know?
Oho, I see we've reached an age when a woman can be mayor, even in Japan.
BUT...BUT I SNUCK AWAY WHILE HE WAS DISTRACTED READING THE NEWSPAPER!
SNEEEAK
Deduced?
So I deduced your destination and came to deliver it to you.
You forgot something important.
フンッ!
HMPH!

An interview with the "too beautiful mayor."
And an article had been taken from the middle of this morning's paper—
to get directions to city hall, were you not?
You were using Irene's computer and "Gulgul Maps"
Gulgul
london city hall
There were signs that it had been read.
That's why I was reading it.
And sneaked out again.
Then you took the school paper's video camera, which you had mysteriously brought home.
Furthermore, I noticed you had come home for a moment.

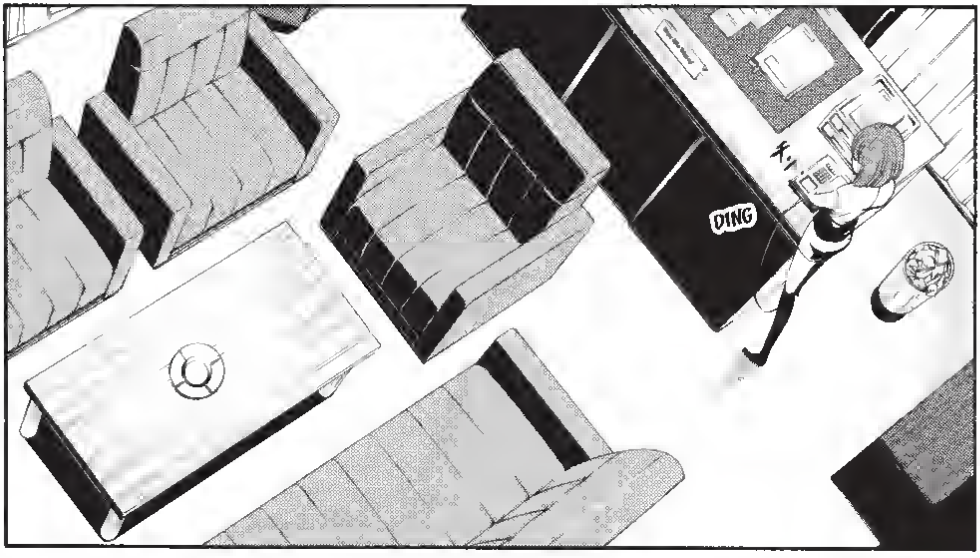
D...DEDUCED NOTHING! YOU WERE JUST SPYING ON ME!!
to interview this beautiful mayor for your school paper, and so I hurried to meet you.
HEH.
All of those facts led me to the conclusion that you were on your way to city hall

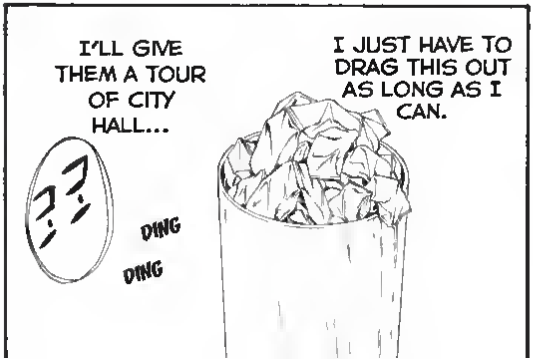

You...you can simply replace a telephone?
This is what I get for being a hundred years past my time.
Oh!
Here, you forgot this.
The cellular phone that never leaves your person.
Huh? Uh... Thanks.
POFF
MM
CLANG
PLOP
I upgraded to a smart phone.
But I don't need that one anymore.
Oh, this?
Sherdog-chan, how did you get that bump?
!
RUSTLE RUSTLE
TOSS
As I waited on the stairs...
Well, I ran here and arrived early.

ARF
ARF
ARF
ARF
It may be raining now, but you could burn down city hall...
My good sir! What makes you think you can throw a lit cigarette into the bushes!!
Shut up, you stupid dog.
WHACK
Hrrrngh... In my heyday, I could teach him a lesson with my judo skills...
Excuse me, I'm here to repair the ceiling lights in the Mayor's office.
One moment please.
...There's something very singular about that man.

Especially because he was rather short even for a Japanese man.
an electrician who had come to repair ceiling lights
should have a stepladder with him.
I see.
So? What was so strange about him?
Hmmm.
Well,
I can only think that he wanted to hide his face.
Hmm...
Also, he tossed out his used cigarette,
and deliberately put on a mask before going in to reception.
Grr! Such humiliation...
What? ...Okay, but you'd better stay inside my bag.
Good! I'll go with you!!
Arf!
Well, we're about to see the mayor. Maybe we'll ask her about it.
Yeah, that does sound a little weird.

This is reception.
Two students from London Academy are here for their three o'clock appointment.
Yes?
Please let them in.

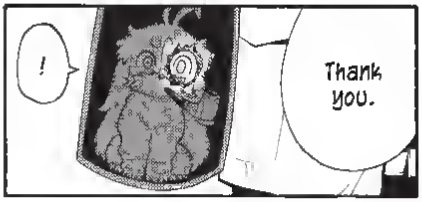

DING

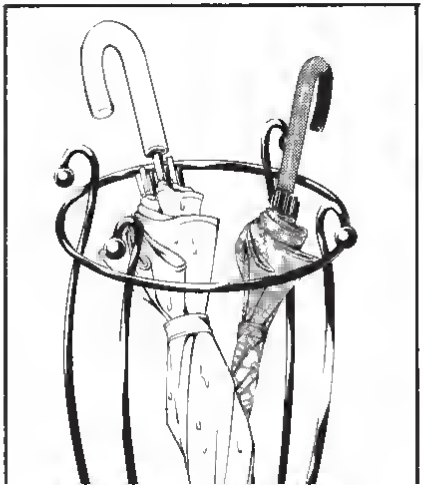

I'LL GIVE THEM A TOUR OF CITY HALL...
I JUST HAVE TO DRAG THIS OUT AS LONG AS I CAN.
DING
DING

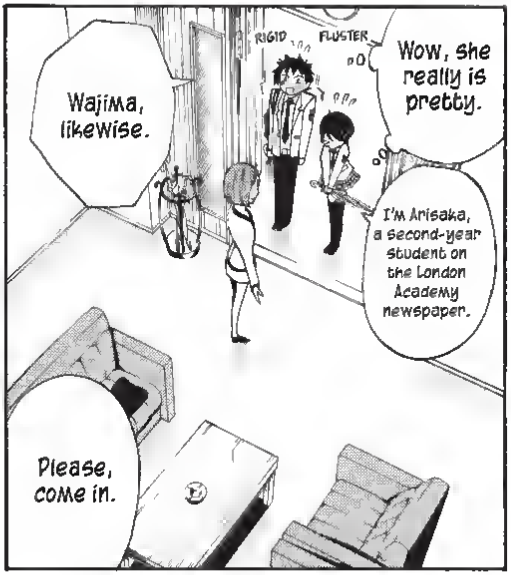
NOW...
...I DID IT.

ニコ
SMILE
I'm Mika Takasugi, mayor of London.
Welcome.

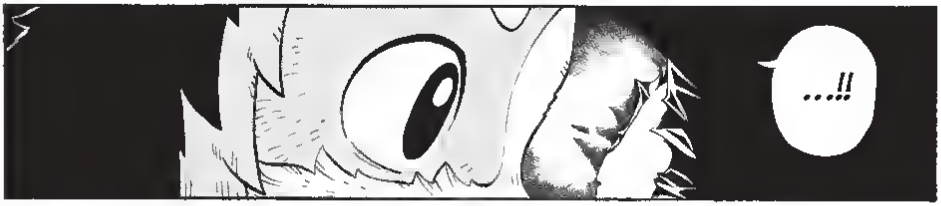
Pleased to meet you!


!
Thank you.




RIGID
FLUSTER
Wow, she really is pretty.
Wajima, likewise.
I'm Arisaka, a second-year student on the London Academy newspaper.
Please, come in.

It must not have been easy, getting here in the rain.
Oh, it was all right.
Please, have a seat.


...!!

She... Sherdog, you idiot! What are you doing?
Oh, that's all right. What a cute little doggie.

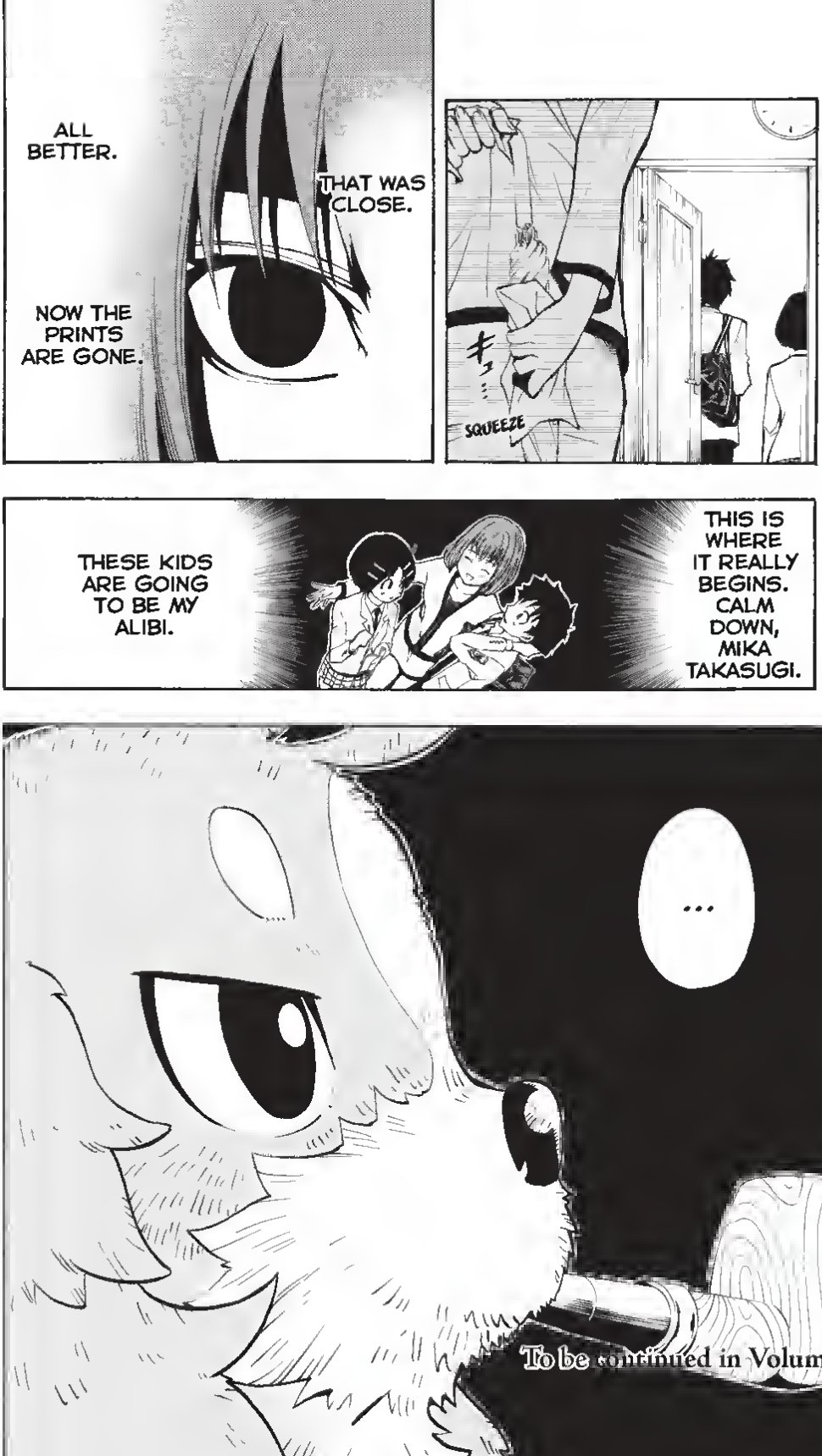
Ah!
Huh?
SHOOP

Oh?

ワン!!!
ARF!
Huh?
Th-that jerk, taking advantage of being a puppy again!
YOINK
よいっ
...
Can I hold him?
What...?
Um...
Did you have a visitor before us?
Why...?
No...none to speak of.
B-BMP...

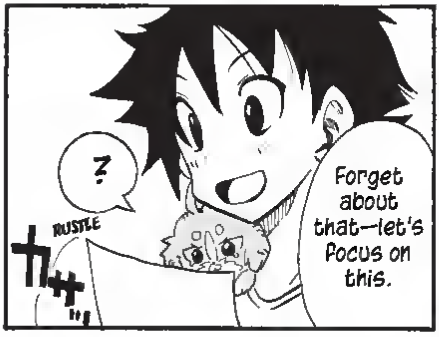
Now, before we get started, why don't I show you around city hall?
I HAVE TO STALL FOR AS MUCH TIME AS I CAN GET.
!
Oh, I just saw that coffee cup over there...
Oh...
That's Mine.
ARF!
!
UM...
I NEED TO KEEP THESE KIDS WITH ME
UNTIL MY NEXT APPOINTMENT, NO MATTER WHAT.

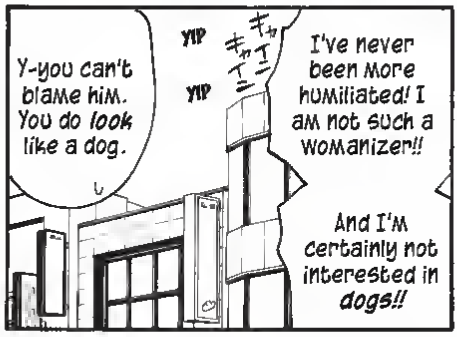
There was a wet umbrella in there before we got here.
Where did it come from?
He must have forgotten to take his umbrella with him.
...
Oh, that's right. There was an electrician here.
Go on, after you.
Oh, thanks.
Oh, come on, an electrician isn't a *visitor*.
?
But you just said you didn't have any visitors...


ALL BETTER.
THAT WAS CLOSE.
NOW THE PRINTS ARE GONE.
SQUEEZE
THESE KIDS ARE GOING TO BE MY ALIBI.
THIS IS WHERE IT REALLY BEGINS. CALM DOWN, MIKA TAKASUGI.
...
To be continued in Volume 5

THAT WASN'T REALLY A GOOD STOPPING POINT, BUT IT'S TIME FOR A BONUS CHAPTER!!

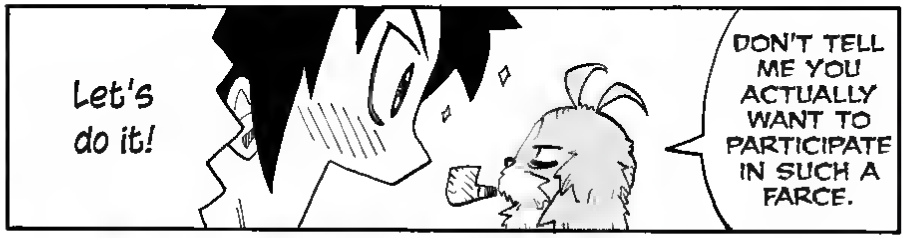
That won't happen, Dad!!
I'm going out for a bit!!
Grrr!
If we're not careful, he might sneak off somewhere, find a female, and make some puppies...
I mean, I know he's a smart dog, but he's still male.
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP

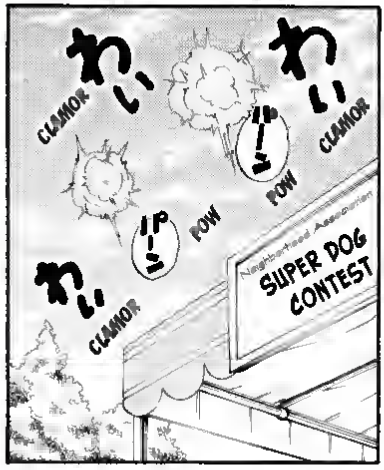

?
RUSTLE
Forget about that—let's focus on this.

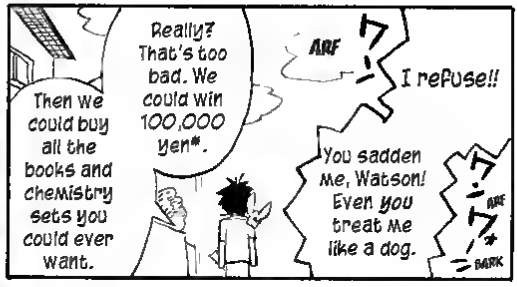

Y-you can't blame him. You do look like a dog.
YIP
YIP
I've never been more humiliated! I am not such a womanizer!!
And I'm certainly not interested in dogs!!

Super Dog Contest!!
Neighborhood Association
SUPER DOG CONTEST
It's the neighborhood association's
Grand Prize: 100,000 yen
PLUS PRIZES FOR RUNNERS-UP

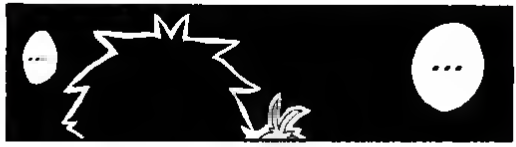
GIDDY
Dog tricks, an intelligence test!!
A five-legged race with your master!
It's a judgment of our souls, a test of the bond between a dog and his master!!
A Frisbee competition! An obstacle course!!


Let's do it!
DON'T TELL ME YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A FARCE.


CLAMOR
POW
SUPER DOG CONTEST


Then we could buy all the books and chemistry sets you could ever want.
Really? That's too bad. We could win 100,000 yen*.
ARF
I refuse!!
You sadden me, Watson! Even you treat me like a dog.
ARF
BARK

*About $1,000.


...
...

DDHH
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
BAH!
Sherdog, are you ready to...
Whoa, that's awesome!
WOW!
WHOOSH
Okay! Come on!!
WHOOSH
Think of the books! Now get up!!
Fetch!
MMK
Pick it up in your mouth!
GAP
GAP
LAZE
...do nothing?!

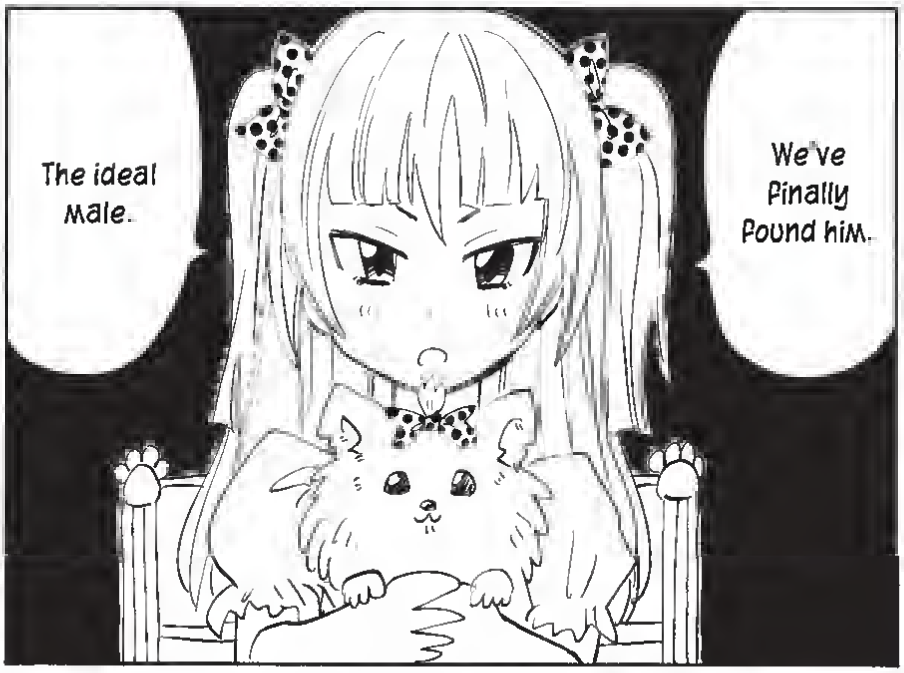
Dog Tricks
SCRATCH SCRATCH
YAAAWN.
Don't just lie there!
Obstacle Course
Don't ride the other dogs!
...Is it just me, or is that dog not acting like a dog?
MURMUR...
SULK
Ugh! We're not getting any points!
THEY'RE ALL AS SOFT AS JERKY SOAKED IN MILK.
HEH... IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE GETTING THE HIGH SCORE AGAIN...
Now for our last event, the intelligence test!
Super Dog Contest
Undefeated Champion
John Howard

NOW MY VICTORY IS ASSURED...
5
1
EASY. SO EASY.
?!
WHOA!
Draw the right cards.
Okay, John, here's your question. What is 18 plus 33?
BOW WOW
WILL DO, MY MASTER!
WONDERS
The...the dog... He wrote in English!!
SUCK
Unbelievable!! How did you train him?!

Ando-sensei, Editor I-san, Editor H-san, Graphic Novel Editor E-san, Designer Y-san, everyone at the publishing company,

Everyone in sales, my staff, my mentor, my friends, my family, and all my readers-thank you!

I'll keep working hard. ^^ Yuki



Oops, we've ended on another cliffhanger... To be continued!!

Sherlock Bones 3 Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Idol collage, page 10

As you may have guessed from the context, an "idol collage" is a doctored photo of a celebrity, putting them in a situation they wouldn't normally be found in. The idol collage is such a common form of doctoring photos in Japan that the term "ai-kora," short for "aidoru koraaju" or "idol collage," has become synonymous with a photo of anyone doctored in that way, famous or not.

You know, like one of those doctored idol collages.
I think somebody
found a picture on the internet, and stuck Nanami-san's face on it.

Autocorrect, page 15

Japanese typing works a little bit differently than English typing, so "autocorrect" wasn't exactly the problem. The Japanese writing system uses a combination of two Japanese syllabaries, or kana (representing syllables), and adopted Chinese characters, or kanji (representing words or ideas). To avoid having to have thousands of different kanji available on a keyboard, in Japan, they use keyboards with the alphabet (in other words, their keyboards are just like ours). That means they use the alphabet to spell out Japanese words, then hit the space bar to select which kana or kanji to use in the text. Different kanji can be pronounced the same way, so if you type the same word, but choose the wrong kanji, your text could end up with a very different meaning the the one you intended. Like autocorrect's memory, the Japanese word input remembers which kanji is most like to be used by a device's user. In this case, the word in question is kanshin, meaning favor (歓心), as in "currying favor through illicit activities), or interest (関心), as in "I want students to take interest in the student council's activities."

Coki Samejima, page 16

For the curious, the typo in question for the Japanese version turned the name Kōki, meaning "high and noble," into kōki, the first two kanji from kōkishin, meaning "curiosity."

Screen tone, page 118

Screen tone is what manga artists use to "color" their manga. Any area that isn't black or white is made gray or given a texture or pattern with screen tone. It works like a sticker, and comes in sheets, or screens. The manga artist (or more likely, his assistants) will cut out a piece of screen tone roughly the size of the area that needs to be covered, then he'll lay it over the drawing and use a small blade to cut away the pieces that don't fit inside the lines. As a result, a bunch of little sticky bits get left all over the place.

Sherlock Bones volume 4 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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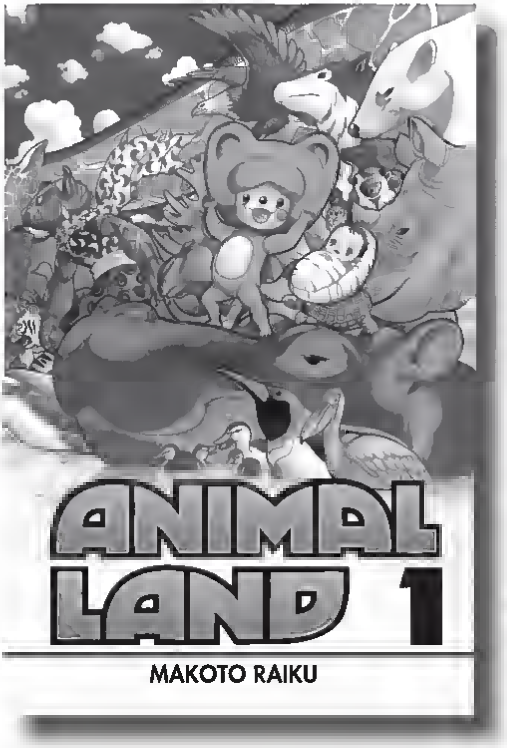
ANIMAL LAND

BY MAKOTO RAIKU

In a world of animals, where the strong eat the weak, Monoko the tanuki stumbles across a strange creature the likes of which has never been seen before–a human baby! While the newborn has no claws or teeth to protect itself, it does have the special ability to speak to and understand all different animals. Can the gift of speech between species change the balance of power in a land where the weak must always fear the strong?



Ages 13+

KC KODANSHA COMICS

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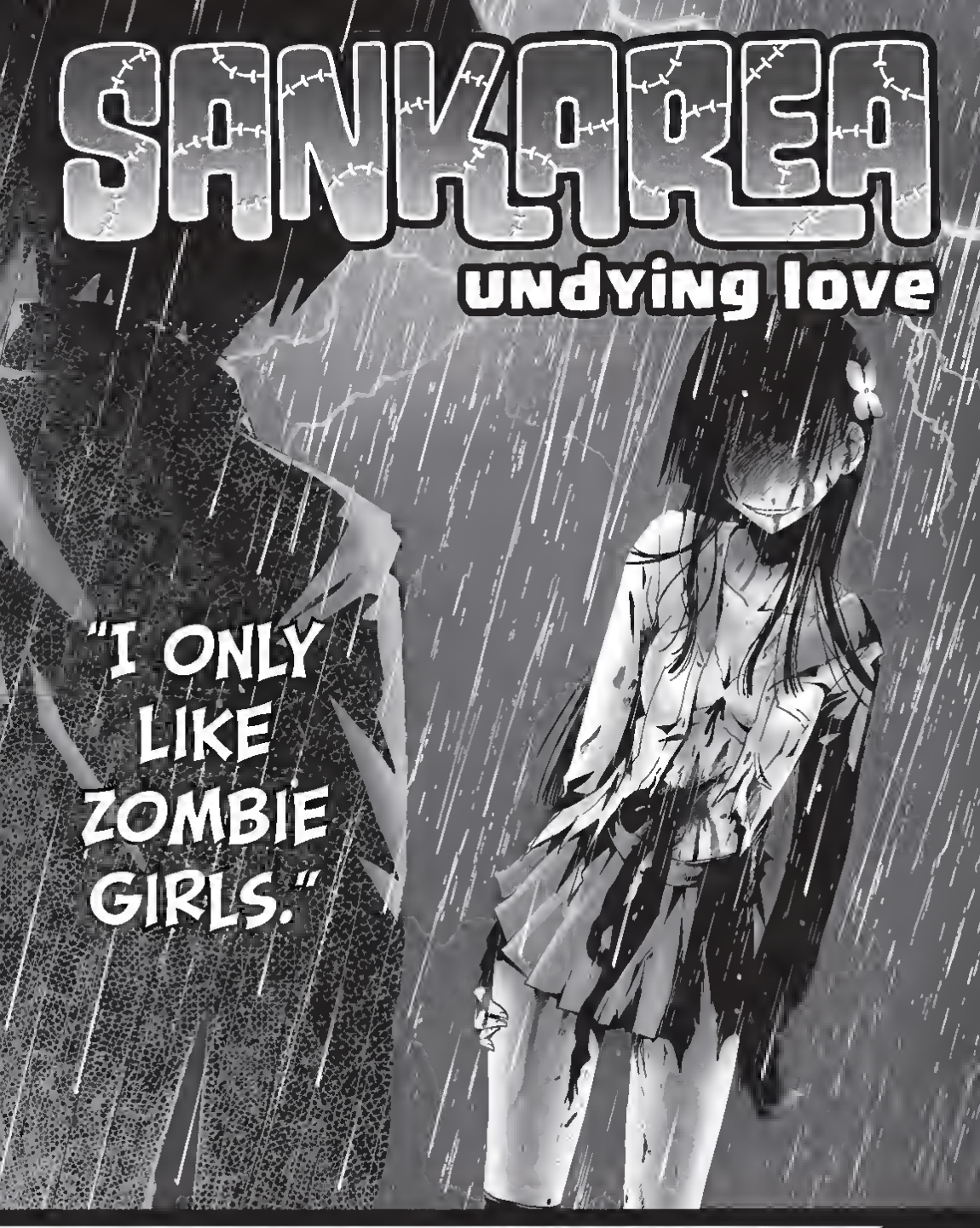

Chihiro has an unusual connection to zombie movies. He doesn't feel bad for the survivors – he wants to comfort the undead girls they slaughter! When his pet passes away, he brews a resurrection potion. He's discovered by local heiress Sanka Rea, and she serves as his first test subject!

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NEGIMA!™
MAGISTER NEGI MAGI

BY KEN AKAMATSU

Negi Springfield is a ten-year-old wizard teaching English at an all-girls Japanese school. He dreams of becoming a master wizard like his legendary father, the Thousand Master. At first his biggest concern was concealing his magic powers, because if he's ever caught using them publicly, he thinks he'll be turned into an ermine! But in a world that gets stranger every day, it turns out that the strangest people of all are Negi's students! From a librarian with a magic book to a centuries-old vampire, from a robot to a ninja, Negi will risk his own life to protect the girls in his care!

Ages: 16+

Special extras in each volume! Read them all!

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Winner of a 2011 Kodansha Manga Award
Humanity has been decimated!
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